

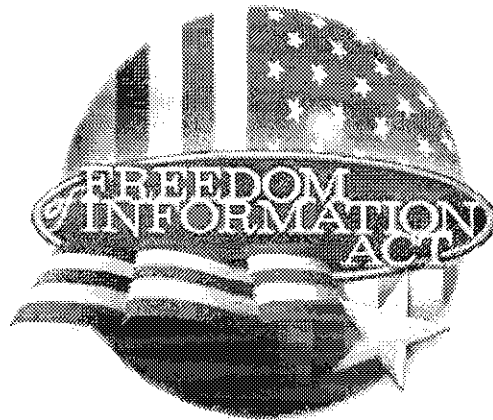
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS**

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

FILE NUMBER: 100-106670

MAIN FILE

SECTION:87



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

MAIN FILE

100-106670

SECTION 87

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

| | |
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| Tolson | _____ |
| Belmont | _____ |
| Mohr | _____ |
| Callahan | _____ |
| Conrad | _____ |
| DeLoach | _____ |
| Evans | _____ |
| Malone | _____ |
| Rosen | _____ |
| Sullivan | _____ |
| Tavel | _____ |
| Trotter | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Ingram | _____ |
| Gandy | _____ |

TO : Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

DATE: 10-15-63

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

COMMUNISM AND THE NEGRO MOVEMENT--
A CURRENT ANALYSIS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-19-91 BY SP4 JSM/ML

10/15/63
0876
CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP4 JSM/ML
REASON FOR EXTENSION 1.2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION



The enclosed article is a factual, documented analysis of the over-all current situation. We believe that it would be of interest not only to the Attorney General but also to Mr. O'Donnell, at the White House; Mr. McCone, at the Central Intelligence Agency; Mr. Rusk, at the Department of State; as well as to Mr. McNamara and the three Armed Forces intelligence agencies of the Defense Department. Accordingly, if the article as prepared is approved, we propose to disseminate it to the afore-mentioned individuals and agencies.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the enclosed article be approved. If approved, it should be returned to the Domestic Intelligence Division for preparation of appropriate letters of transmittal.

- Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
 - 1 - Mr. Sullivan
 - 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
 - 1 - Mr. Bland
 - 1 - Research - Satellite Section

CDB:dww
(6)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
ENCLOSURE

100-106670-3638

OCT 23 1963

50 C.D.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : A. H. Belmont

DATE: 10-18-63

FROM : W. C. Sullivan

SUBJECT: COMMUNISM AND THE NEGRO MOVEMENT
A CURRENT ANALYSIS

| | |
|------------|--|
| Tolson | |
| Belmont | |
| Mohr | |
| Casper | |
| Callahan | |
| Conrad | |
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| Evans | |
| Malone | |
| Rosen | |
| Sullivan | |
| Tavel | |
| Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Holmes | |
| Gandy | |

5 - Boston

Re my memo in captioned matter 10-15-63, attached, in which it was recommended and approved that we disseminate the prepared analysis regarding communist activities and the Negro movement on a select basis to individuals and agencies set forth in referenced memo.

Attached are appropriate letters of transmittal for dissemination. Through them, we are sending a copy of the analysis to the Attorney General, with a copy each for the Deputy Attorney General, and the Assistant Attorneys General Burke Marshall and J. Walter Yeagley. In addition, a copy is being sent as an enclosure to attached letters for P. Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President; the Honorable Dean Rusk, Secretary of State; the Honorable John A. McCone, Director of Central Intelligence Agency; the Honorable Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense; Rear Admiral Rufus L. Taylor, Director of Naval Intelligence; Major General Alva R. Fitch, Assistant Chief of Staff for Army Intelligence; and Brigadier General John S. Samuel, Director of Special Investigations for the Air Force.

Balkin

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letters be approved and sent.

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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4JOM/ML
6076

Phillips

Enclosures *sent 11-18-63*

CDB:jej
(10)

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Mr. D. J. Brennan
- 1 - Mr. R. W. Smith
- 1 - Section tickler
- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan

31 NOV 6 1963

REC 7 100-106670-416

NOV 28 1963

ENCLOSURE

100-106670-3638

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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| Mohr | _____ |
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| Trotter | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Holmes | _____ |
| Gandy | _____ |

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan *WCS*

DATE: October 25, 1963

FROM : D. J. Brennan, Jr. *DJB*

SUBJECT: REQUEST FROM COMMANDANT, MARINE CORPS,
FOR TOP SECRET DOCUMENT ENTITLED
"COMMUNISM AND THE NEGRO MOVEMENT -
A CURRENT ANALYSIS"

DJ Brennan
CD Brennan

On 10/24/63, Major Henry R. Marshall, Counterintelligence Branch, U. S. Marine Corps, personally requested a copy of captioned report, which had been disseminated to Admiral Rufus Taylor, Director of Naval Intelligence. According to Major Marshall, Marine Commandant David J. Shoup had expressed a personal desire to review this information and inasmuch as his office had not been furnished this data, he requested that an extra copy be disseminated to him.

In accordance with General Shoup's request, a copy was furnished to Major Marshall on 10/24/63. Major Marshall was impressed with the extremely sensitive nature of the information set forth in the document and was appropriately admonished to insure that proper security is afforded it.

ACTION:

For information.

- LPK:mls (6) *WCS*
- 1-Mr. Belmont
- 1-Mr. Sullivan
- 1-Mr. R. W. Smith
- 1-Mr. Keenan
- 1-Liaison

L

Hughes

WCS

W.C.
10/25

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-4-81 BY SP14JRM/ku
6076

REC- 83

OCT 28 1963

ENCLOSURE

100-106670-3638

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-4-81 BY SP4 JPM/llh
6072

5 (1. 10-61)

Domestic Intelligence Division

1 APPROVED

DEC 6 1963

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 12/2/63

Attached is Atlanta teletype 12/3/63 indicating Martin Luther King will meet with President Johnson 11:30 a.m., 12/3/63.

Also attached is the summary, "Communism and the Negro Movement-- A Current Analysis," which we prepared on King. This memorandum was disseminated and later all copies were recalled, at request of the AG.

This information re King will be of vital interest to the President. We suggest that Walter W. Jenkins, Assistant to the President, be orally briefed by Assistant Director DeLoach regarding the background of King. The attached TOP SECRET summary contains data which may be utilized for the briefing.

SBD: csh

NOTE

The Top Secret Summary was made available to Pres Johnson by DeLoach - The Pres. returned the summary as received & returned it to the P. - The next am. - per T.D.B.

100-106670-3638
ENCLOSURE 548

ENCLOSURE

4:14 p.m.

October 25, 1953

MEMORANDUM TO MR. TOLSON
MR. BELMONT
MR. MOHR
MR. DE LOACH
MR. ROSEN
MR. SULLIVAN

The Attorney General called and advised me there was a lot of talk at the Pentagon regarding the document, Communism and the Negro - Current Analysis, dated 10-18-53, which had been disseminated to the military and intelligence agencies by the Bureau. The Attorney General anticipated that this information would leak out as the military didn't like the Negroes.

The Attorney General felt we should get back all copies of the document. I told him we had a tally of all copies and we would get them from all agencies to which they were disseminated. The reason to be given for recalling would be revisions. I also told him if any newspapers asked about this, no comment would be made and no mention would be made that such a document existed.

4:40 p.m.

I advised the Attorney General that liaison representatives had been sent to get all copies of this document.

The Attorney General wants all copies disseminated to Departmental officials recalled also.

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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JMD/ld

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

REC-22

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 12:55 PM
DATE 28-1-67
BY 01-211

100-3-116-436

100-106670-3638
ENCLOSURE

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Tracy _____
- Harbo _____
- Quinn Tamm _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

RECORDED
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INDEXED
OCT 27 1953

TO:

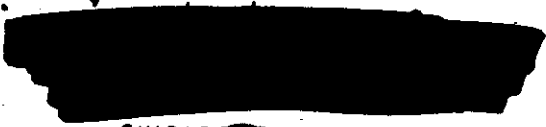
- _____ Director
- _____ Mr. DeLoach
- _____ Mr. Mohr
- _____ Mr. Bishop
- _____ Mr. Gale
- _____ Mr. Rosen
- _____ Mr. Callahan
- _____ Mr. Casper
- _____ Mr. Conrad
- _____ Mr. Felt
- _____ Mr. Sullivan
- _____ Mr. Tavel
- _____ Mr. Trotter
- _____ Mr. Beaver
- _____ Miss Gandy
- _____ Miss Holmes
- _____ Personnel Files Section
- _____ Records Branch
- _____ Mrs. Skillman
- _____ Mrs. Brown
- _____ John Quander

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson | _____ |
| Mr. DeLoach | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr | _____ |
| Mr. Bishop | _____ |
| Mr. Callahan | _____ |
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| Mr. Sullivan | _____ |
| Mr. Tavel | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Miss Holmes | _____ |
| Miss Gandy | _____ |

See Me
 Send File
 Please Call Me

For appropriate action
 Note and Return

Clyde Tolson



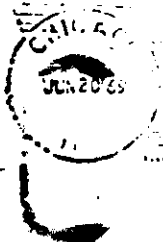
CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60611

b7(c)

Clyde Tolson
Associate Director
Federal Bureau of
Justice Department
Washington, D.C.

PERSONAL.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Mr. Tolson | ✓ |
| Mr. DeLoach | ✓ |
| Mr. Mohr | ✓ |
| Mr. Bishop | ✓ |
| Mr. Casper | ✓ |
| Mr. Callahan | ✓ |
| Mr. Conrad | ✓ |
| Mr. Felt | ✓ |
| Mr. Gale | ✓ |
| Mr. Rosen | ✓ |
| Mr. Sullivan | ✓ |
| Mr. Tavel | ✓ |
| Mr. Trotter | ✓ |
| Tele. Room | ✓ |
| Miss Holmes | ✓ |
| Miss Gandy | ✓ |



VIA AIR



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6072

(Handwritten signature)

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-8-42-111

NOT RECORDED
48 JUN 30 1969

ENCLOSURE
ENCLOSURE ATTACHED
51 JUL 17 1969

CRIME RESEARCH

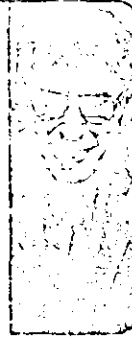
COMMUNICATIONS

June 19, 1960

...Thought you'd appreciate
...contribution of [redacted]
...to the following, Regards.

b7(c)

MIKE ROYKO



FBI's tapping of King phones

100-106670

The FBI has a lot more explaining to do about its motives for spying on the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

It has publicly described as "malicious" a column written by Carl Rowan that criticized the tapping of Dr. King's phones.

Clyde Tolson, associate FBI director, says the wiretapping was done for "national security" reasons, with the approval of the late Robert Kennedy, then attorney general.

That doesn't come even close to telling it.

ONE THING IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN, is the following incident:

About four years ago, an ex-FBI agent I knew asked me to join him for a round of golf.

After the round, we sat in the clubhouse chatting. He worked the conversation around to Dr. King.

He told me the FBI had been using a variety of electronic eavesdropping devices on Dr. King. Besides tapping his phone, they had planted listening devices in hotel rooms he used while traveling.

The result, he said, was a very thick file on Dr. King.

He gave me some examples.

They were very personal things. They were things I'm sure Dr. King would not want anyone else to know about. If you bugged almost anyone's bedroom long enough, you would hear things that person didn't want anyone else to know about.

BUT NONE OF THE THINGS this ex-FBI agent told me reflected in any way on Dr. King's loyalty, his Americanism, or seemed to be remotely related to national security.

Nor did they reflect on his role as a leader in the civil rights crusade, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, or a figure of historic importance.

I asked the ex-FBI agent if his information was merely gossip or if he was sure about it.

He said he had visited J. Edgar Hoover in Washington and had been briefed on the contents of the King file.

It was not uncommon, he said, for trusted ex-agents to be let in on such things.

Obviously, I was supposed to be shocked by the things he told me. And I was. But not for the reasons he assumed.

The shocking part of it was that he was actually sitting there telling me such things.

They were none of my business, and they were none of his business. They were nobody's business but Dr. King's.

IT WAS PLAIN OLD MUD-SLINGING, on a level with the lowest scandal magazines and transom-peeking publications.

There was no doubt in my mind then, and none now, that it was being leaked to me for the purpose of discrediting Dr. King.

The same type of thing, I have since learned, occurred in other cities, with other newsmen.

The same type of thing, I have since learned, occurred in other cities, with other newsmen.

And it doesn't take much imagination to figure out why. Dr. King and Hoover had engaged in a furious public quarrel. Hoover, quite clearly, did not like Dr. King.

That's why I suggest the FBI hasn't given an adequate explanation.

If the wiretapping was being done for national security, I presume that it should have been kept a big secret.

Secret? How much of a secret was it if a newspaper columnist in Chicago knew of the eavesdropping? Or if a former agent — a private citizen — could talk about it?

(For the record, the ex-agent was not a two-bit gumshoe given to flights of fancy. He was then a well known and highly respected investigator. He is today a famous and powerful man.)

AND IS THE PURPOSE OF SUCH official eavesdropping to gather spite material, transom-peeking tidbits that will be whispered in the ears of opinion-makers?

That, of course, is the greatest danger from Big Brother and his big ear.

If that's what Dr. King's file was used for, then I'll gladly

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 11-14-81 BY SP4 JOM/ik

dent:

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AND IS THE PURPOSE OF SUCH official eavesdropping to gather spite material, transom-peeking tidbits that will be whispered in the ears of opinion-makers?

That, of course, is the greatest danger from Big Brother and his big ear.

If that's what Dr. King's file was used for, then I'll gladly second Rowan's suggestion that Hoover be replaced.

The scandal-sheet business should be left to private industry.

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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAM/ik
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Mr. Nelson
Director
FBI
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Thank you for your extension of remarks which appeared in the Congressional Record of June 24th. It was indeed thoughtful of you to comment as you did and I have inserted into the Record the article from "The Evening Star" of June 19th concerning the Martin Luther King, Jr., wiretap controversy.

I certainly appreciate your continuing staunch support and it means a great deal to me.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Oklahoma City

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DATE 2-14-87 BY SP4 JRM/ML
6071

NOTE: Congressman Edmondson is on the Special Correspondents List.

CEE:HK (5)

MAILED 10
JUN 27 1969
COMM-FBI

25 JUN 30 1969

NOT RECORDED
165 JUL 1 1969

ENCLOSURE

16 1969

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

62-10386-29

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DATE 10/10/03 BY 60322 UCBAW

FBI CONFIDENTIAL

HON. ROBERT F. KENNEDY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1966

Mr. EDMONDSON. Mr. Speaker, during recent months we have heard considerable controversy about the Government's wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King. The House Committee on the Judiciary has received the Attorney General's authorization for the wiretapping record has not been published and a detailed accounting given to the public which preceded the release of the Attorney General for the record.

I place in the Record at this point from the Washington Evening Star of June 10, setting forth specific details on the authorization of the wiretapping.

The Star article states that the disclosures "climaxed a long smoldering controversy over the role of the FBI." The article should also serve to end the controversy and any further irresponsible reporting on the subject.

FBI Director Hoover has been tented his account of the record and the record now speaks for itself.

The Star article follows:
KING WIRETAP SAID BY R.F.K.'S SON
Associated Press, FBI Conf. Wash. (AP) MAR 10

(By Jeremiah O'Leary)

Wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s telephone was proposed to the FBI by then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy in June, 1963, and authorized by him in writing later that year, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover told The Star today.

Hoover revealed the contents of two memoranda in one of which Kennedy expressed concern about possible infiltration of the race issue by Marxists and spoke of allegations that the Negro leader was closely associated with Marxists and followers.

The Department of Justice reported the contents of a conversation Evans had just had with Robert F. Kennedy in which the Attorney General asked about the feasibility of installing electronic devices on King's telephones. Evans headed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

INTERNAL SECURITY - COMMUNISM

Evans, according to the Evans memo, was concerned about reports that King was associated with Marxism, that he was associating with a New York attorney with known Communist connections, but that he did not openly espouse Marxism because of his religious beliefs. The Evans memorandum indicated Kennedy wanted to know if it was technically feasible to use electronic devices to prove or disprove these allegations.

The Evans memo said Evans replied to Kennedy that King was a man who traveled almost constantly and that it was extremely difficult to use wiretaps effectively in such cases.

Hoover told The Star that FBI officials also informed Kennedy at that time that they doubted the advisability of undertaking electronic surveillance of Dr. King because of possible political repercussions.

However, the second memorandum cited by Hoover shows that on October 7, 1963, the FBI chief reported to Kennedy that it was then technically feasible to apply wiretaps to King's telephones at two places, one of them at an unnamed location in New York.

That memorandum constituted the FBI's request for authority to proceed with the wiretap proposed by Kennedy four months before. The document bears in the lower left-hand corner the signature, "Robert F. Kennedy," and under the name the date "10-10-63."

Hoover did not indicate to The Star when the surveillance was started but said the taps were discontinued on April 30, 1965. At that time Nicholas Katzenbach was serving as Attorney General.

Asked about the results of the electronic surveillance today, Hoover declined comment.

The FBI director told The Star: "I have never authorized installation of technical electronic devices without written authority of the Attorney General."

Today's disclosures climaxed a long smoldering controversy over the role of the FBI, a subordinate bureau of the Justice Department, in using wiretaps or other electronic devices in investigative matters. The matter came to a head Sunday when Carl Rowan, a columnist for The Star, charged that the FBI had no authority to wiretap Dr. King's conversations. He quoted former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who succeeded Katzenbach, as saying "the implication that people thought Dr. King was a security threat is outrageous."

The Rowan charges prompted Associate FBI Director Clyde A. Tolson to write to Rowan early this week defending legality of the King wiretaps.

"For your information," Tolson said in his letter, "the wiretap on Martin Luther King, Jr., was specifically approved in advance in writing by the late attorney general of the United States, Mr. Robert F. Kennedy."

Tolson added that the monitoring device was "strictly in the field of internal security and therefore was within the provision laid down by the President of the United States."

Evans, now a Washington lawyer, was en route to Puerto Rico today and could not be reached for comment. However, Tuesday night Evans said he had no recollection of whether a wiretap authorization directed at King had ever been involved in his discussion with Kennedy.

Atties to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said today he would have no comment on

Robert Kennedy's role in the wiretapping of Dr. King. Evans said that, according to the record after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the attorney general's interest in some of his official affairs had flagged. However, the authorization came nearly six weeks after Robert Kennedy signed the authorization for the King wiretap.

Hoover and Kennedy, it is said, later became concerned about the possibility that each man might be accused of having ordered wiretapping.

Evans' memo was made public when Kennedy made public a February 1966 letter to him from Evans which made the point that the use of hidden microphones was not Kennedy's responsibility but suggested he may have directly approved the use of wiretaps on phones. That letter said the FBI sent national security wiretap requests to Kennedy for approval.

It is reliably reported that Kennedy was reminded by the FBI that it still had in its files the authorizations signed by him as Attorney General for telephonic wiretaps. However, Hoover did not disclose at that time any names of persons under wiretap surveillance with Kennedy's approval.

At that stage, Kennedy and Hoover broke off the public exchange of charges as if by mutual consent. This was regarded partly as due to Kennedy's realization that his signed authorizations were still in FBI files, partly to the FBI's desire not to have special attention drawn to its investigative techniques nor to engage in a battle with the Kennedy forces that could have political overtones.

The Justice Department on Tuesday declined a direct answer when asked for documentation of Tolson's contention in his letter to Rowan. But earlier this month, a Justice Department spokesman said Hoover was "accurate in every respect" in his repeated statements that all wiretaps were being authorized in advance and in writing by the Attorney General during the timespan of the controversy.

A Justice department spokesman, asked today if Attorney General John N. Mitchell had given Hoover permission to discuss the contents of secret documents of the King wiretapping, replied simply, "no comment."

However, the spokesman recalled that the attorney general had declined to authorize disclosures in court of the basic authority for the wiretapping. Such disclosures had been demanded by defense lawyers in the Houston draft evasion hearing for former boxing champion Cassius Clay. It was during that hearing that the King wiretapping was officially revealed for the first time.

ENCLOSURE

Spencer

100-106670 -



b7(c)

6

Mr. Mike Royko
Columnist
Detroit Free Press
Detroit, Michigan

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-4-91 BY SP-10/MLK

Subject: Your article appearing 6/19 re EBO... an analysis

Dear Mr. Royko:

Handwritten note: A part of the... King

Your article (copy enclosed) suggests your observation of the motive for wiretapping Dr. King might be a) Mr. Hoover didn't like Dr. King (par F) and b.) Mr. Hoover resorted to using his agency to go into the scandal sheet business (par G).

Have you asked your lockerroom contact if the motive for wiretapping was "national security". Have you asked him the nature of the "national security"? Maybe you feel these questions are not important to your report of your lockerroom experience.

If the purpose of the wiretapping was national security and if national security should be kept secret (as you suggest par. F). And you had club house experience where the matter was discussed in some intimate details, and yet you did not find out what the motive was for the wiretapping (par A); then I would suggest your contact maintained his obligation of secrecy for the wiretapping.

As a matter of national policy do you think:

- a. Mr. Hoover should make public "national security" details of investigations?
- b. To whom should he make these motive known?
 - (1) you acknowledge your contact and other trusted ex-agents were "let in on such things" (par B).

You state (par C) "a famous man's imperfections don't shock me". This characteristic is admirable and one of a mark of perfection for yourself. Thus, you shouldn't be shocked at the imperfection of your lockerroom contact (par D) for his not being immune to being effected by revelations of famous men's imperfections.

I would suggest you contact your lockerroom contact to determine if the wiretapping had a "national security motive", then write another article on the subject so as it is complete.

cc:

100-106670
NOT RECORDED (continued next page)

51 JUL 14 1959

JUN 27 1959

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Handwritten notes: C.D. ...
G. ...
G. ...

It would be contrary to national policy for
article alleges (going to the...
King), and it would just be... to pu...
required to make public details of "national...
because of imperfections of persons "let in on..."

I feel you are definately on target with public int...
publish possible use of our governmental agencies...
to accomplish personal motives of public officials

Your exercise of telling of your experineces as...
the chips fall where they may is also consistent with...
I, as a layman, see it.

I have made this analysis of your article for my own...
pass it on to you for what it is worth.

Keep up your good work and best wishes to you for the...

Sincerely,



cc: C. Tolson
Associate FBI Director

b7(c)

6/19/69

Reason

Bugging King

CHICAGO—The FBI has a lot more explaining to do about its policies for spying on the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

It was made public in a "praiseworthy" in a column written by Carl Rowan that criticized the wiretapping of Dr. King's phones.

Clyde Tolson, FBI Director, says the wiretapping was done for "national security" reasons. It was the approval of the late Robert Kennedy, then attorney general.

That doesn't come even close to telling it.

ON THING IT DOESN'T explain is the following incident:

About three years ago an ex-FBI agent I knew asked me to join him for a round of golf.

After the round, we sat in the clubhouse chatting. He worked the conversation around to Dr. King.

He told me that the FBI had been using a variety of electronic eavesdropping devices on Dr. King. Besides tapping his phone, they had planted listening devices in hotel rooms he used while traveling.

The result, he said, was a very thick file on Dr. King.

He gave me some examples.

They were very personal things. Naturally, if you bug almost anybody's bedroom long enough, you will hear personal things.

They were things that I'm sure Dr. King would not want anyone else to know about.

If you bugged almost anyone's bedroom long enough, you would hear things that person didn't want anyone else to know about.

BUT NONE OF THE THINGS this ex-FBI agent told me about reflected in any way on Dr. King's "loyalty," his "Americanism," or seemed to be remotely related to "national security."

Nor did they reflect on his role as a leader in the civil rights crusade, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, or a figure of historic importance.

I asked the ex-FBI agent if his information was merely gossip or if he was sure about it.

He said that he had visited J. Edgar Hoover in Washington and had been briefed on the contents of the Dr. King file.

It was not uncommon, he said, for trusted agents to be let in on such things.

Obviously, I was supposed to be shocked by the things he told me. And I was. But not for the reasons he assumed. A famous man's imperfections don't shock me.

The shocking disclosure was that he was actually sitting there telling me such things.

They were none of my business, and they were none of his business. They were nobody's business but Dr. King's.

It was plain old mud slinging, on a level with the lowest scandal magazines and transom-peeking public actions.

THERE WAS NO DOUBT in my mind then, and none now, that it was being leaked to me for the purpose of discrediting Dr. King.

The same type of thing, I have since learned, occurred in other cities, with other newsmen.

And it doesn't take much imagination to figure out why. Dr. King and Hoover had engaged in a furious public quarrel, Hoover, quite clearly, did not like Dr. King.

That's why I suggest that the FBI hasn't given an adequate explanation.

If the wiretapping was being done for "national security," I presume that it should have been kept a big secret.

Secret? How much of a secret was it if a newspaper columnist in Chicago knew of the eavesdropping? Or if a former agent—a private citizen—could talk about it?

(For the record, the ex-agent was not a two-bit gumshoe given to flights of fancy. He was then a well-known and highly-respected investigator. He is today a famous and powerful man.)

AND IS THE PURPOSE of such official eavesdropping to gather spite-material, transom-peeking tidbits that will be whispered in the ears of opinion makers?

That, of course, is the greatest danger Big Brother and his big ear.

If that's what Dr. King's file was for, then I'll gladly second Rowan's wish: Hoover be replaced.

The scandal sheet business—private industry.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-87 BY SP4/MLD

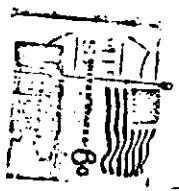
ENCLOSURE

100-106070

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

b7(c)

2-14-69
6076



~~Mr. Clyde Tolson~~
Associate FBI Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
WASHINGTON, D. C.

5-11-69

Airmail

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson | _____ |
| Mr. DeLoach | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr | _____ |
| Mr. Bishop | _____ |
| Mr. Casper | _____ |
| Mr. Callahan | _____ |
| Mr. Conrad | _____ |
| Mr. Felt | _____ |
| Mr. Gale | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen | _____ |
| Mr. Sullivan | _____ |
| Mr. Tavel | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Miss Holmes | _____ |
| Miss Gandy | _____ |

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Bishop

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
INFORMATION CONTAINING

A newspaper column critical of the FBI in connection with our investigation of Martin Luther King has been sent to the Director by one [REDACTED]. Accompanying the newspaper column is a note from [REDACTED] which states, "I expect to see your response to this column, and have asked my senators to insist on it." [REDACTED] letter, [REDACTED] initials, and the postmark on the envelope is not legible.

The newspaper column which was sent to the Director by [REDACTED] bears the by-line of Mike Royko; however, neither the name of the newspaper nor the date on which the column was published is indicated. In the column, Royko claims that about four years ago a former FBI Agent told him that during a trip to Washington he (the former Agent) had been briefed by the Director regarding "the contents of the (Martin Luther) King file." Royko then implies that the information which the Director disclosed to the former Agent about King "was plain old mud-slinging, on a level with the lowest scandal magazines and transom-peeking publications." Royko concludes, "If that's what Dr. King's file was used for, then I'll gladly second (Carl) Rowan's suggestion that Hoover be replaced." Royko does not name the former FBI Agent to whom he refers.

INFORMATION IN BUFILES

Bufiles reflect that Mike Royko is a columnist for the "Chicago Daily News." On December 24, 1964, he wrote what apparently was intended to be a humorous satire on an open house held in the press room of the new Federal Building in Chicago which stated, in part, "Reporters, judges, FBI men, government prosecutors, private attorneys and assorted federal officials were standing around drinking, bragging and fibbing to each other." SAC M. W. Johnson immediately contacted the Executive Editor of the "Chicago Daily News" and protested that this was a complete fabrication and unscrupulous reporting. In subsequent editions of the December 24, 1964, issue of the newspaper, all reference to the FBI was deleted from Royko's column. At the time of this incident, SAC Johnson observed that Royko "is the type of writer who never has a good word to say about anybody or anything."

100-106620

NOT RECORDED

165 JUN 30 1969

CONTINUED - OVER

REC. UNIT - CRIME RESEARCH

ORIGINAL FILED IN 107-1101

b7(c)

M. A. Jones to Bishop
RE: [REDACTED]

b7(c)

[REDACTED] obvious [REDACTED] of Palatine, Illinois, who wrote the letter to General R. F. Kennedy in 1961. [REDACTED] called Kennedy's reaction to a vicious anti-FBI column written by John Crosby in October, 1961. In his letter, he implied that the FBI was engaged in compiling "a dossier on almost everyone in the United States, an activity repugnant to anyone who has a police state mentality" and inquired, ". . . what has the agency gathered that is of value to the ordinary citizen. . . Is the country at all for J. Edgar Hoover's activities?"

RECOMMENDATION

For information. It is felt that either [REDACTED] or Royko deserves the dignity of a reply.

10/10

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SECRET

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CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY SP4 JG
REASON FOR EXTENSION 2
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION 6-17-89
6071

DATE: 6-17-69

ROWAN OF ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE CASE FOR J. EDGAR HOOVER TO GO," APPEARING IN THE 6-15-69 ISSUE OF "THE SUNDAY STAR," WASHINGTON, D. C.

SYNOPSIS:

Captioned individual in his article criticizes the FBI concerning its use of electronic surveillance devices and urges that Mr. Hoover be replaced immediately as Director of FBI. Bufiles reveal Rowan born 8-11-1911 at Havenscroft, Tennessee. He received A.B. degree, Oberlin College (1936) and M.A. degree in journalism from University of Minnesota (1948). He has been a syndicated columnist with "Chicago Daily News" since 1965. We investigated Rowan, who had been Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs since 1961, for State Department in 1962 and investigation was generally favorable.

b7(c)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b(1)

Rowan served as Ambassador to Finland (1963-64) and was Director of the United States Information Agency (USIA), 1964-65.

In April, 1967, a request from Rowan to briefly meet the Director and discuss anti-Vietnam protests and Martin Luther King was declined. In June, 1967, Rowan contacted Assistant Director Sullivan and voiced desire to help administration prevent Negro riots from occurring. Rowan stated he knew of good work FBI was doing in this field and offered

Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Gates
Mr. Sullivan

SECRET

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.
Classified by 6089 Lef/ps
Date of Declassification Indefinite 11/24/77

FD-302 (3)

ALVIN JONES to Bishop Memo
RE: CARL T. ROWAN

to be of assistance to us. He also expressed belief that Martin Luther King, whom he described as a man with a "complex" and a dangerous man, had become a liability not only to the Civil Rights movement but to national defense and the country itself. He also spoke of King's willingness to move in the direction of the Left and stated King was no kind of a leader for the Negro people to have.

Rowan has in the past been critical of the Bureau in his writings. In an article appearing last April in the "Evening Star," Rowan discussed the departure of Henry Loomis from Voice of America (VOA) while Rowan headed the USIA. Rowan stated that just prior to this departure he had criticized Loomis as being "inexcusably irresponsible or was manifesting a futile notion that he could run VOA independent of its parent body the way J. Edgar Hoover supposedly ran the FBI aloof from policies of the Justice Department." Over the Director's signature, a letter was written on 4-4-69 to the "Evening Star" calling Rowan's "gratuitous slur" on the Director's administration of the FBI "completely irresponsible and untrue."

Rowan is not carried on any of our mailing lists.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

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ant

TSB

D. J. J.

K

BA

Capt. [redacted] in his article criticizes the FBI
concerning the use of electronic surveillance devices and urges that
Mr. [redacted] be replaced immediately as Director of the FBI. Our
files have been reviewed on Rowan and they reveal the following
information concerning him.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Carl Thomas Rowan, a Negro, was born on 8-11-25 at
Ravenscroft, Tennessee. He attended Tennessee State University
(1942-43), Washburn University (1943-44), and received an A.B. degree
in mathematics from Oberlin College in 1947. In 1948 he received an
M.A. degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota. He has
been a columnist with the "Chicago Daily News" since 1965, and his
syndicated column is carried by the "Evening Star."

[REDACTED]

b7(c)

[REDACTED]

b7(c)

[REDACTED]

b(1)



TO BISHOP
T. ROWAN

[REDACTED] b(1)

Rowan served as Ambassador to Finland from 1963 to 1964
was Director of the United States Information Agency (USIA) from 1964
1965.

[REDACTED] b(1)(D)

In April, 1967, Rowan requested the opportunity to visit
the Director for a brief chat. He stated that he would like to discuss
some aspects of the anti-Vietnam protests and said he wanted to ask
Mr. Hoover about Martin Luther King. He indicated at that time that
when he was in Government service he had become aware of King's
unfavorable side. It was recommended and approved that Rowan's request
for a meeting be declined and this was done.

In June of 1967, Rowan contacted Assistant Director Sullivan
at which time he indicated that he would like to do everything possible to help
the administration in its efforts to prevent Negro riots from occurring. At
this time, Rowan advised that he knew of the good work that the FBI had
been doing in this field and offered to be of any assistance in this regard.
He also stated that he thought Martin Luther King had become a grave
liability not only to the civil rights movement but to national defense
and the country itself. He described King as a person with a Messiah com-
plex and called him a dangerous man. He further spoke of King's willingness
to move in the direction of the Left and stated that King was no kind of a
leader for the Negro people to have.

DETAILS - CONTINUED OVER

↓ ↓

M. A. Jones to the
RE: CAROL

writings. In an article in the "Evening Star" regarding the "Voice of America" (VOA), Rowan stated that the "pragmatic" Communist China put one million dollars into Philadelphia by the Revolutionary Action Movement. The statement was not in the article, which upset the administration of the Commission of Investigations, was a misuse of honor and a sensationalist and irresponsible reporting at its worst.

During the course of this year, an editorial in the "Evening Star," discussed the charges against Henry Loomis from his position as Voice of America (VOA) while Rowan headed the USIA. In connection with this editorial, Rowan described a dressing down that he gave Loomis and, according to Rowan, told Loomis that he had been "excusably irresponsible or was manifesting a futile notion that he could run VOA independent of its parent body the way J. Edgar Hoover supposedly ran the FBI aloof from policies of the Justice Department." In connection with this article, the Director requested that the "Evening Star" be written and told that "Rowan's gratuitous slur on my administration of the FBI is completely irresponsible and untrue." This was done by letter of 4-4-69, over the Director's signature.

Rowan is not carried on any of our mailing lists.

CARL T. RUGER

the ability to... threat to personal liberty. This society is... of... from the... — a... admissions of a... FBI wiretaps and... of homes...

...Statement of... District... Dr. Martin Luther King... and... who... it was my... that it went on... after that."

The whole truth is that Dr. King's... were tapped, and he... right... in...

...at Henry... in Houston, Texas, that for four... years he had listened eight hours a day, five days a week, to the... of Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Black Muslims. Pickett employed both a telephone wiretap and a microphone planted in Muhammad's home.

These cases of electronic eavesdropping, which violate both federal law and a presidential executive order, were...

...banking... Clay's effort to... prison... to be...

...which... Clay... but a... wiretaps... the country... a... the... part of most...

...the general... for... security."

...General... FBI had no... to wiretap or bug... the... people thought... a security threat

"...fear, and... man... more things — including... out of fear... out of love.

The puzzling thing about Clark's statement is that he acts as though he is surprised to hear of the wiretapping and bugging of Dr. King. Clark probably had... were that FBI officials... going before... committees and... the... as long as

...and feeding... Southerners who despised the civil rights... — all by way of retaining... picked up through the wiretaps and buggings?

Was Clark... FBI... the country... newspaper... stories about Dr. King and what the buggings allegedly had revealed?

Everybody else in Washington of any conscience knew it, and many deplored it, but no one seemed to know how to go about making the FBI bend to the laws of the land.

There is a not-too-flippant assumption in Washington that J. Edgar Hoover has been FBI director for 45 years because all the recent Presidents have assumed that he knew too much about them to be replaced. So not only was he not replaced by any of the younger, very able FBI men in the normal course of things, but Presidents Johnson and Nixon have felt it wise or expedient to waive a law saying Hoover has reached the reclining-chair age.

Hoover ought to be replaced as FBI director — immediately.

As Washington agency heads go, Hoover may have done a better job than most. But the people of this country know

something when they lifted... the... man... They saw... as... the... that we have come to

- Cooper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

It is clear Hoover has... intention of... does the President... courage to say: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Goodbye."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-87 BY SP4/MLK
6075

- The Washington Post _____
- Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) _____
- The Sunday Star (Washington) E-4
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Daily World _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Examiner (Washington) _____

Date JUN 13 1968

100-106670

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFIED AND EXTENDED BY *SP4 JEM/ld*
REASON FOR EXTENSION
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW FOR DECLASSIFICATION *6-19-89*
6076

11:06 AM

June 19, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. DE LOACH
MR. SULLIVAN
MR. BISHOP

Mr. Newbold Noyes, Editor of The Evening Star called. He said he thanked me very much for talking to him because he knew this was an unusual kind of thing to have happen.

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M.A.L

He said he wanted to ask me very seriously, but he was sure I was familiar with this and given thought to it already, but he wanted to report on the basis of their story that was run yesterday about the authorization that the FBI had from Mr. Robert Kennedy, to release the King material; that they are getting a great deal of static from people who are telling them -- they say they have this authorization, but they don't release it and don't show what the documents are and many of these documents that have been released in the past are fuzzy and don't really show there was clear authorization to do this and in general there is a nondisposition on the part of the readers to accept the idea that Bob Kennedy actually did authorize the tapping of King's phone. He said, "Now I just want to ask you as seriously as I can to release those documents. You have them. They do show, I presume, exactly what you say."

Martin Luther King

I told Mr. Noyes that he authorized it in his own handwriting on October 10, 1963; it was installed November 8, 1963, and discontinued April 30, 1965. I told Mr. Noyes that, as a matter of fact, when Kennedy was Attorney General he requested that the telephones of Dr. King be covered by electronic device and was persuaded by our people not to do it in view of the possible repercussions, then later he changed his mind and delayed bringing the matter up again until in October the authority was signed by him in his own handwriting and it gave us the authority to do it and we discontinued it on April 30, 1965, under the administration of Attorney General Katzenbach. Mr. Noyes said he understood and asked if they could report this. I told him he could report what I have said to him. I told him the reason I was drawing a

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Tolson _____
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Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
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Trotter _____
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Holmes _____
Gandy _____

JH:edm (8)

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Exempt from GDS, Category _____
Date of Declassification Indefinite

100-106670-

NOT RECORDED
170 AUG 5 1969

79 AUG 12 1969

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop June 19, 1968

One on this is that Mr. Tolson wrote (Carl) Rowan about his slanderous column last Sunday and he, Rowan, wrote back in which he asked a series of eight or nine questions, such as, did we tap the telephone of a half dozen leaders like Wilkins of the NAACP, Farmer, eight or nine others, Abernathy; or if we had tapped the phones of a Congressman; and various other things. Mr. Noyes said he was not asking all that. I told him he could certainly print what I say because we are writing back to Rowan today that since he did not seek any facts before printing his column, he was not entitled to any information from us at this time, but as to the question he has asked, the dates that these wiretaps were on, I have the original copy of it on my desk. It was signed by Kennedy in his own handwriting on October 10, 1963.

Mr. Noyes said if I had one minute, could he repeat back to me what he understood I had said to him so there would be no misunderstanding and also could he tell me that he was adding into it some details that he thought they already understood about this from other sources they have talked to.

He said it was his understanding that in June, 1963, Mr. Kennedy did suggest through a liaison man that he had with me, that I should keep an eye on Martin Luther King because of his association with people that he, Robert Kennedy, was concerned about and he, Noyes, was particularly talking about Stanley Levinson and a fellow named Jones, both of whom were supposed to be of Marxist leanings and that the Attorney General was concerned about King's relations with these people and he thought it might be a good idea to put an electronic surveillance device of some type into the picture to see what he was doing; that the FBI suggested at that time that this would be a difficult thing to do because of the fact that King traveled around so much and there were a lot of political repercussions that might result; but then subsequently on the 7th of November (and I corrected him and told him October 7, 1963) -- on October 7, 1963, I reported, and this is a memorandum from me to the Attorney General, a four-paragraph document, that I had determined the feasibility of establishing taps on the telephones of the SCLC headquarters at Atlanta and New York and if he authorized it, I was prepared to go ahead and do it and that came back to me, the memorandum, with his initials, I told him with his full name, Robert F. Kennedy. Mr. Noyes continued - o.k.'d by him, dating that 10/10/63. I told Mr. Noyes that was correct.

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop

June 19, 1969

Mr. Noyes continued that it was his understanding that I had no objection to his using this -- is it o.k. for them to identify the FBI as the source or flatly say it on their own. I told him I would rather he flatly said it on his own, but I anticipate similar requests from other sources that I would not be as frank with as I have been with him. Mr. Noyes said o.k.; that he thought this is a wise thing for me to do.

He said if I had one more minute, he would like to tell me one reason why he happened to be interested in this thing. He said he had some young people with whom he was friendly who were involved in a wedding this weekend and the boys and girls all ended up at his house after the thing and he did not know whether they had read Rowan's column, but they were talking about the fact how dreadful it was that the FBI would have presumed to tap the phone or keep an eye on Martin Luther King, a great hero. He said after listening to this for about an hour and a half, he told them to hold on a minute, that it was his understanding that the Bureau had been checking on King because there had been allegations that he had been in touch with recognized or potential communist agents and the reason nothing was ever released or done about it was that after checking into it, they became satisfied there was nothing dangerous and he asked them what they would think of a Government that did not check into information that seemed to show that communist agents were trying to work on a man in Martin Luther King's position. He said these kids listened and were astounded that there might be another side to it, and he was telling me that this was taken by Bobby Kennedy from the point of view of the generation gap. Mr. Noyes said he thought this is an important story. I said he became a kind of Messiah for the generation gap and individuals who were pro-King and still are.

I told Mr. Noyes that as to the matter of electronic installations, I have never authorized an electronic installation of any kind at any time except with written approval of the then Attorney General and that goes right down to today. I said I do not have authority to do it myself and I do not want it as I feel the Attorney General should be the one to approve or not approve electronic surveillances and we use it only in internal security cases and now in organized crime. I said in organized crime, the authority has to be obtained from the courts under the McClellan bill and in security cases -- espionage, communist activities -- that is approved by the Attorney General, which is

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop June 19, 1969

allowed under the McClellan Bill. I continued that the Rowan article indicated we were promiscuously continuing this sort of thing without regard to restrictions or regard to authority, so the truth of the matter is, I have never ever authorized the installation of a technical electronic device except with the approval of the Attorney General in writing and we have on file the original documents that support that statement.

Mr. Noyes said that when he first asked me, I said it was all right to cite the Bureau for the authority and then I indicated I would rather have it come from them directly. He said if, in order to give this the authority it should have, it is necessary for him to cite me for the authority for some of this, is that o.k. with me. I told him that normally I would say no; that I would defer to his judgement because he knows more about the matter of public relations and public reaction. I told him I have been astounded at the reaction on this thing. I said some of these magazines, like Newsweek, which is owned by the Washington Post, carried the Cassius Clay testimony in Texas where he is on trial and where the use of the electronic device was exposed, and they stated the Agent testified the taps were continued until King's death. I said that is untrue and the Agent did not so testify. I said in the King case, it was discontinued April 30, 1965. I told Mr. Noyes that if he thought it would be to the best interest of public relations in clearing up any really serious doubts newspaper people have, I would have no objection to being quoted.

Mr. Noyes said he thanked me and he thought I was making a wise decision in letting it come out. He said he thought it may be one of the most important stories of the year.

I told Mr. Noyes that when I read the Sunday paper and Rowan's article I thought here is an individual who is a Messiah of the dissident left, of which Rowan is a part, and yet it was done at the instance of Bobby Kennedy, who later became a great friend of King's, notwithstanding he knew all the facts, as I kept him advised as well as every Attorney General since.

Mr. Noyes said there is one thing about this I should consider and that is that he has the gist of what is in these things from me, but I will be

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Sullivan, Bishop June 19, 1969

asked immediately to release them textually. He said he thought I ought to do it. I told him I would have to get the authority of the Attorney General for that. Mr. Noyes said that is another problem, but the text ought to come out. He said it is very well for me to say what is in them, but the text ought to come out. I told him I realized that. He said he thought once before we had put out photostats.

I told him a Congressman, Gross, made inquiry in regard to some of Kennedy's authorizations before he died and after he left the Attorney Generalship. I said he denied he had approved certain authorizations and I sent to the Congressman Xerox copies of the authorization signed by Kennedy, as he being a Congressman, I felt he was entitled to it, and when Attorney General approved. I said in this instance, if we get a request from a Congressman or Senator along the lines he indicated, I would submit it to the Attorney General with my recommendation. Mr. Noyes said I was going to get an immediate request -- within the next couple of hours or as soon as he can get this out -- from every news media for the text. I told him these were confidential documents of the Department and can only be released as to the text by the Attorney General.

Mr. Noyes thanked me.

1:08 PM



b(1)

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1969

REC-38 100-106670-3637

[Redacted]

b7(c)

New York 11596

Dear [Redacted]

I have received your letter of June 27th. The interest which prompted you to write and bring the excerpts from "The New York Times" to my attention is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Bufiles contain previous outgoing to [Redacted] 3-13-68 in response to his inquiry on the topic of communism. CEE:cs (3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/14/81 BY SP4 JRM/MLK
6074

MAILED 22
JUL 3 - 1969
COMM-FBI

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
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- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

TEB pd
[Handwritten initials]

b7(c)

7, 1969

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. DeLoach | |
| Mr. Mohr | ✓ |
| Mr. Bishop | |
| Mr. Casper | |
| Mr. Callahan | |
| Mr. Conrad | |
| Mr. Felt | |
| Mr. Gale | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JMM/ML
b276

J. Edgar Hoover
United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have been reading of your problems concerning the wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King's telephone. Your opponents are, in effect, accusing you of having perpetrated a great injustice on Dr. Martin Luther King, who was supposedly a great American and a great believer in democracy.

I would suggest that you call to the attention of your opponents and newsmen the following excerpts that appeared in the New York Times prior to Dr. King's death. Tell them to let the record speak for itself.

From the New York Times:

"Dr. King again urged young men to file as conscientious objectors and refuse to fight for the United States which he described as the "greatest purveyor of violence in the world today".....

Dr. King said: "The United States is on the wrong side of the revolutionary movement of oppressed people throughout the world."

REC-38 100-106670-3637

The civil rights leader asserted that the United States policy on Vietnam had been wrong since 1946. He said that this country had supported the French in Indo-China rather than the independence leader, Ho Chi Minh. He said "when France lost its war, the United States selected one dictator after another to prevent Ho Chi Minh from becoming the head of Vietnam". "Elections would surely have brought to power Ho Chi Minh over a united Vietnam", he said.

In another article in the New York Times, we read the following: In his (Dr. King's) address, which was sponsored by the Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, Dr. King likened the use of new American weapons on the peasants of Vietnam to the Germans' tactics

ACK 7/3/69 DEE/8

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover - page 2.

of "medicine and new tortures in the concentration camps
of Europe"

Their record speaks for itself.

Very truly yours,

b7(c)



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY [redacted]

REC-54

[redacted]

Freeport, Texas 77541

b7(C)

Dear [redacted]

CD. [redacted]
[redacted]

Mr. Hoover has reviewed your letter of June 24th and asked me to advise you that the article from the June 19, 1969, issue of "The Evening Star" which was previously furnished to you speaks for itself. He has no further comment to make regarding this matter.

MAILED 10
JUL 2 - 1969
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

[Handwritten signature]

Heien W. Clady
Secretary

V
b7(C) *[initials]*

NOTE: Bufiles disclose in April, 1968, [redacted] of Texas appeared on a list of individuals expressing opposition to the Vietnam war. He wrote on June 16, 1969, regarding the Martin Luther King wiretap controversy and by letter 6/20/69 we sent him the 6/19/69 issue of "The Evening Star" and advised him that it set forth our position in that matter. He apparently did not read the article carefully as he wonders where we got the authority between September, 1964, and April, 1968, and the article clearly states the wiretaps were discontinued on April 30, 1965. He apparently desires to get into a hassle regarding this and it is felt the above response is appropriate.

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Bishop
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

[Handwritten initials and signatures]

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|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson | _____ |
| Mr. DeLoach | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr | _____ |
| Mr. Bishop | _____ |
| Mr. Casper | _____ |
| Mr. Callahan | _____ |
| Mr. Conrad | _____ |
| Mr. Felt | _____ |
| Mr. Gale | _____ |
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| Mr. Trotter | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Miss Holmes | _____ |
| Miss Gandy | _____ |

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP-5 [redacted] 1907

[redacted] b7(c)
Houston, Texas 77541
June 24, 1969 H.S.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you for your letter of June 20th explaining the FBI's position concerning the wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King's telephone.

I still would appreciate a clarification on the following: Robert Kennedy resigned as Attorney General in September, 1964, but an FBI agent recently testified in federal court that the wiretap continued until King's death in 1968. If neither Nicholas Katzenbach nor Ramsey Clark gave permission for such a wiretap, where did the FBI get such authority between September, 1964 and April, 1968? Is it common practice for the FBI to carry on such activities without the knowledge of the Attorney General?

As a citizen of this country and as one who is concerned about the increasing invasion of privacy, I feel that you owe us further explanation.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted signature]

b7(c)

REC-54

JUN 27 1969

REC-54

100 1066-0-3636

4 JUL 8 1969

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Casper
- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Felt
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Tavel
- 1 - Mr. Trotter
- 1 - Mr. Tele. Room
- 1 - Mr. Holmes
- 1 - Mr. Gandy

July 3, 1969

REC 45
100

3635

Honorable Robert L. Leggett
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

J. Edgar Hoover
July 3, 1969
Leggett
1885

My dear Congressman:

Your letter of July 1, 1969, has been received.

While I certainly appreciate your interest, other than the enclosed newspaper article, it is not possible for me to furnish you any information since data in our files is confidential pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice. I regret that I cannot be of assistance in this instance.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 22
JUL 3 - 1969
COMM-FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JMD/ML
637

Enclosure

NOTE: See memorandum G. C. Moore to W. C. Sullivan 7/2/69 regarding "Martin Luther King, Jr., Security Matter - Communist" prepared by JJD:fsh.

Leggett

Newspaper article being sent to Leggett is the one which appeared in the Evening Star 6/19/69 entitled "King Wiretap Called RFK's Idea"

- Tolson _____
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- Mohr _____
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- Casper _____
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- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
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- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

JJD:ekv *skw*
(8)

Trotter
Leggett
JMD

JUL 23 1969
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HOUSE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

COMMITTEES ON ARMED SERVICES MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES

WASHINGTON OFFICE ROOM 225 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 202/225-5716

OWEN CHAFFEE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

Mr. Tolson Mr. DeLoach Mr. Mohr Mr. Bishop Mr. Casper Mr. Callahan Mr. Conrad Mr. Felt Mr. Gale Mr. Rosen Mr. Sullivan Mr. Tavel Mr. Trotter Mr. Tele. Room Mr. Holmes Miss Gandy

July 1, 1969

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am becoming increasingly concerned over recent reports relating to the late Martin Luther King, Jr.'s alleged affiliation with known Communists and Communist-front organizations. The current controversy has unfortunately obfuscated the historical record concerning Dr. King's activities in the Civil Rights Movement.

In an effort to separate fact from fiction, I would very much appreciate a comprehensive briefing concerning this matter at your earliest possible convenience.

Yours very truly,

[Handwritten signature of Robert L. Leggett]

ROBERT L. LEGGETT Member of Congress

Handwritten notes: 6/2/69, 7/20/69, etc.

RLL:am

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-7-81 BY SP4JAM/ka 6076

EXP. PROC. 32 JUL 2 1969

REC 45

100 106670-3635 10 JUL 2 1969

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

100-106670-3634
CHANGED TO
67-149000-3386

JUL 18 1969

S. Am.

Columbia University in the City of New York | New York, N.Y. 10027

435 West 117th Street

Page 2

| |
|--------------|
| Mr. Tolson |
| Mr. DeLoach |
| Mr. Mohr |
| Mr. Bishop |
| Mr. Casper |
| Mr. Callahan |
| Mr. Conrad |
| Mr. Felt |
| Mr. Gale |
| Mr. Rosen |
| Mr. Sullivan |
| Mr. Tavel |
| Mr. Trotter |
| Tele. Room |
| Miss Holmes |
| Miss Gandy |

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

Thank you for your letter of June 18. I am disturbed by comments that my letter to the New York Times contained "unwarranted" of the F.B.I. and "unfounded charges." My use of the question as the central part of that letter was meant to be honest, not evasive. At the time, I did not have enough facts to know who was responsible for the wiretapping or whether, putting aside the legal implications of the Federal Communications Act, there were sufficient reasons to justify it. As to the former question, subsequent statements have clarified the matter a good deal (though to my knowledge, it has still not been explicitly stated that all tapping did stop when the authorization expired). In regard to the latter question, it may be that it is impossible to provide before the public enough information about the reasons for the tapping for interested private citizens to make a judgment on its advisability, but so far as I am aware no statements have been made since my letter that would quiet my doubts on that score.

I am somewhat reassured that the tapping was done pursuant to a good faith view of the needs of internal security and appreciate your having made that clear. Perhaps the basic question is how broadly that view should be interpreted when something as serious as continued wiretapping absent judicial approval is involved.

Sincerely yours,

Kent Greenawalt

Kent Greenawalt

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAM/ML
6076

WC/ark

REC-71

5 JUL 7 1969

AP. PFOC

JUL 25 1969

JUL 3 1969

ERS. REC. UNIT

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

Memorandum

Mr. Bishop *TJB*

M. Jones *MJM*

SUBJECT: KENT GREENAWALT
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF LAW
CRITICISM OF MR. HOOVER AND
WIRETAPPING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference my memorandum to you of 6/11/69 captioned as above, in which it was approved by the Director approve a critical letter to the Editor of "The New York Times" by Greenawalt which appeared in the 6/14/69 issue of that newspaper. Accordingly, by letter of 6/18/69, the Director transmitted to Greenawalt a copy of Mr. Tolson's letter to Carl T. Rowan regarding Rowan's unfounded charges concerning wire-tapping.

By letter of 6/23/69, Mr. Greenawalt acknowledged the Director's letter and indicated that at the time he wrote his original letter, he "did not have enough facts to know who was responsible for the wiretapping or whether... there were sufficient reasons to justify it." He then indicates that the former question has been "clarified" a good deal, and, though he still has some doubts concerning the latter question, he can see that it may not be possible to disclose enough information at this time for it to be completely explained to the public. Greenawalt finally states: "I am somewhat reassured that the tapping was done pursuant to a good faith view of the needs of internal security and appreciate your having made that clear."

OBSERVATION:

In view of the generally conciliatory tone of Greenawalt's letter, it would seem advisable to let this matter now rest since there would be little purpose in further pursuing the discussion with Greenawalt.

RECOMMENDATION:

That no further correspondence be undertaken with Mr. Greenawalt on this matter, and, accordingly, his letter not be answered.

66 JUL 24 1969
TDB:et

Mr. Gale
Mr. Sullivan

DJF
TJB
PERS. REC. UNIT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JDM/ik
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REC-71 100-106670-36

July 1, 1969

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-13/MLL
ON 2-14-81

Dear Mr. President:

For your information there is attached a copy of a Memorandum for the Attorney General dated October 10, 1963, requesting that authority be granted to place technical surveillance (wire tap) on Martin Luther King, Jr. at his current address, or at any future address to which he may move. This was approved by the Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy on October 10, 1963.

There is also attached a copy of a memorandum dated July 16, 1963, from Mr. Courtney A. Evans, then Assistant Director of this Bureau, to Mr. Belmont, former Assistant to the Director, indicating a discussion concerning the wire tap at which time Mr. Kennedy stated any repercussions which should become known as a result of such a surveillance did not concern him at all, that in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation he thought it was advisable to have as complete coverage as possible. On July 22, 1963, Mr. Kennedy returned a request for a wire tap at which time he informed former Assistant Director Evans orally that he was withdrawing his previous request because of the reasons Mr. Evans had outlined to him previously.

As stated above, Mr. Kennedy later approved the placing of the wire tap on October 10, 1963.

REC'D MAIL ROOM

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3 JUL 7 1969

- Bishop
 - Casper
 - Callahan
 - Conrad
 - Felt
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 - Sullivan
 - Tavel
 - Trotter
 - Tele. Room
 - Holmes
 - Gandy
- ENCLOSURE

REC'D
JUL 8 1969

[Handwritten signature]

UNRECORDED COPY FILED

Also attached is a memorandum dated September 20, 1963, written by [redacted] Marshall, then Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division, to me as Director of the Bureau, relating that both the Attorney General and the President had separately strongly urged Dr. King that there should be no further connection between Hunter Pitts O'Dell and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. This also indicates that King was informed that Stanley Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party and that this was done at the direction of the Attorney General and the President. The Attorney General at that time was the late Robert F. Kennedy and the President was the late John F. Kennedy.

Sincerely yours,

Signed
Edgar

Enclosures

CT:LCB

... stated that the information would be ...
... original ... and ...
... of ...

... same occasion ...
... information ... Levison
... member of the Communist ...
... done after conversation with Mr. Evans
... meeting with Dr. King, ... done at
... of the Attorney General ... the
... Prior to that time, again based upon
... the Attorney General and Mr. Evans at
... present, it had been decided that it
... the best interest of the United States to
... King that we had any firm information
... was under Communist control. I had,
... on a previous occasion, warned Dr. King
... association with Levison, basing the
... upon doubts about Levison's loyalty to the
... United States.

I thought you should have this additional
information for your file.

cc: The Attorney General
The Deputy Attorney General

7/16/63

FROM

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 JMD
ON 2-14-81

6076

SUBJECT COMMUNIST INFLUENCE
RACIAL MATTERS

The AG was contacted at his request late this afternoon by a source at Clarence Benjamin Jones, a NY attorney who had close association with Martin Luther King and with Stanley Levinson (a contact of the AG), had been in to see Burke Marshall about the racial situation. According to the AG, Jones had indicated he had some reservations about talking with Levinson on the phone. Marshall thought he might have been referring to a possible telephone tap, and passed it off by telling Jones this was something he would have to take up with Levinson. (LEVINSON)

The purpose of the AG's contact was that this brought to his attention the possibility of effecting technical coverage on both Jones and Martin Luther King. I told the AG that I was not at all acquainted with Jones, but that, in so far as King was concerned, it was obvious from the reports that he was in a travel status practically all the time, and it was, therefore, doubtful that a technical surveillance on his office or home would be very productive. I also raised the question as to the repercussions if it should ever become known that such a surveillance had been put on King.

The AG said this did not concern him at all; that in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation, he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible. I told him, under the circumstances, that we would check into the matter to see if coverage was feasible and, if so, would submit an appropriate recommendation to him.

If you approve, we will have a preliminary survey of the situation and if technical coverage is feasible with full security...

1700
XEROX
JUL 8 1963

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Classified by 2550
Exempt from GDS
Date of Declassification Indefinite

ENCLOSURE SECRET

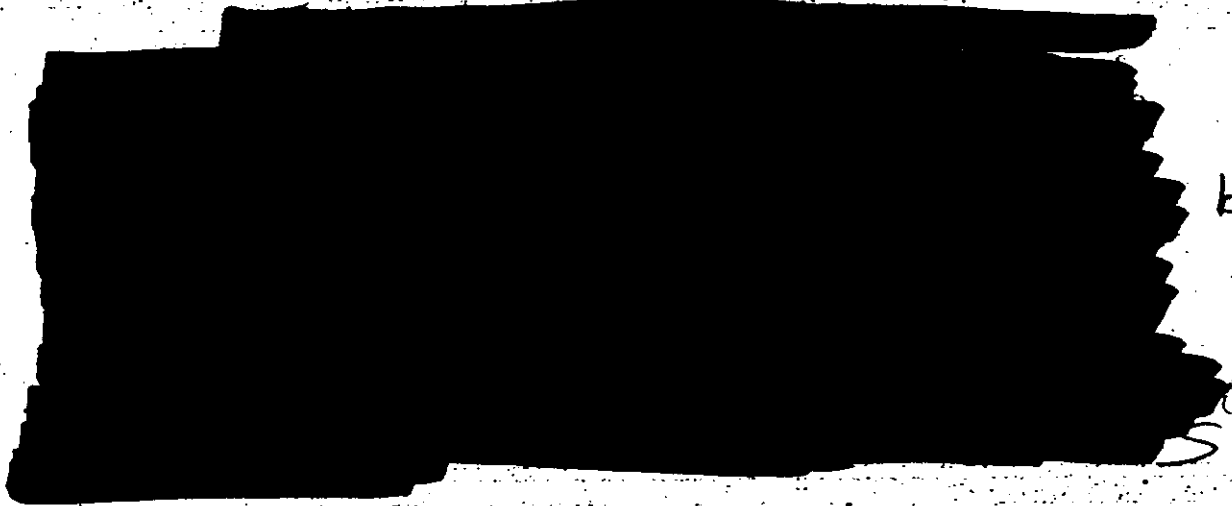
STATE X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN
RACIAL MATTERS



b(1)

It is further requested that authority be granted to place a technical surveillance on the SCLC office at the current New York address or to any other address to which it may be moved.

Respectfully,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director
ENCLOSURE

APPROVED

DATE

10/10/63

Classified by *60652ad/rmp*

Exempt from GDS, Category *3*

Date of Declassification Indefinite *12/29/77*

5 NOV 7 1963

1/22
JUL 8 1969

July 3, 1969

Honorable James L. Bracken
Managing Editor
The Spokanman-Review
Spokane, Washington 99210

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 J...

Dear Mr. Bracken:

Mr. James E. Milnes, Special Agent in Charge of our Seattle Office, has furnished me the editorial, "Hoover Is Upheld in Wiretap Dispute," from the June 26th edition of your paper. I want to express my thanks for your kind remarks and hope that my future efforts as Director of the FBI will continue to merit your approbation. Your staunch support is indeed appreciated and it means a great deal to me.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Seattle
Reurlet 6/27/69

NOTE: Mr. Bracken is on the Special Correspondents List. This letter recommended by the SAC, Seattle.

EE:cam (5)

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
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59 JUL 15 1969

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D. J. Hoover

TSB

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6/27/69

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

I am attaching an editorial which appeared in the SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, Spokane, Washington, on June 26, 1969, dealing with the current discussion with respect to the captioned individual.

In view of his strong support of you and the Bureau's position, I thought perhaps you may desire to address a letter to Mr. JAMES BRACKEN, Editor of the SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, expressing the Bureau's appreciation for his support. Mr. BRACKEN has always been a strong supporter of the Bureau and has editorialized very favorably concerning you and the Bureau on a number of occasions. There is certainly nothing unfavorable here about him.

Enclosure

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DATE 2-17-81 BY SP4 JEM/ML
6070

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ALL INFORMATION
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DATE 2-17-81 BY SP4JRM/ML
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CONFIDENTIAL -
EXEMPT FROM DISSEMINATION

...been made within
...the retirement of
...of the Federal
...
...the normal retire-
...left in his position
...special presidential
...have been con-
...at the White House
...of the press.

...of justice, how-
...one rate attorney
...who has recently
...of the late Robert F.
...general under the
...matter, President John

...is the revived confi-
...surveillance made
...the Kennedy adminis-
...the "wiretapping"
...authorized by Robert
...in touch with the activi-
...Martin Luther King Jr., slain
...his leader.

Mr. King had been a controversial figure
during a period of his professional career.
Apparently there had been doubts in the
Department of Justice as to his associates
and their motives.

The recent new attacks against Mr. Hoover
—who has long been under attack by Com-
munist and subversives in this country—
were sparked by Mr. Hoover's remarks that
the FBI did not tap ~~_____~~ of Mr. King
unless he expressed approval of then-Atty.
Gen. Kennedy. This was done in accordance
with legal requirements.

...question of personal in-
...the dispute, and the op-
...Mr. Hoover ~~_____~~ been trying to
...on that basis.

It is therefore refreshing to see Mr. Hoover
supported by President Nixon, who de-
clared the other day that he had "checked
personally" and had found that Robert Ken-
nedy as attorney general did authorize the
FBI wiretapping of Mr. King.

If the current controversy over several men
who are no longer living seems out of date
and rather futile, it should be remembered
that FBI Director Hoover's reputation is the
point at issue.

Some of his opponents would like to drive
him from public office. Naturally, he is quite
unwilling to concede some sort of wrong-
doing when he knows he was right and truth-
ful.

The way in which Mr. Nixon has upheld
Mr. Hoover should certainly receive far great-
er public credence than the questionable
suggestion coming from Mr. Clark.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 Spokesman-Review
Spokane, Wash.

Date: 6/26/69
Edition: final
Author:
Editor: JAMES BRACKEN
Title: DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: SEATTLE

Being Investigated

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ENCLOSURE

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YMH / Ceg

June 30, 1969

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[REDACTED]

6076

[Handwritten signature]

Chicago, Illinois 60653

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAK/bl

b7(c)

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of June 22nd and want to thank you for your kind remarks regarding the FBI. In view of your interest, I am enclosing a copy of an article which appeared in the June 19, 1969, issue of "The Evening Star," Washington, D. C., which concerns our activities relating to Martin Luther King, Jr. and sets forth the FBI's position in this matter.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 22
JUN 30 1969
COMM-FBI

[Handwritten signature]

Enclosure
"The Evening Star" article entitled, "King Wiretap Called RFK's Idea,"
6/19/69

NOTE: Based upon available information, Bufiles contain no record identifiable to correspondent or his organization.

DMG:kas (3)

- Tolson _____
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- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
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- Conrad _____
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- Gandy _____

70 JUL 21

REC'D - READING

JUN 30 1969

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[REDACTED]

b7(c)

CHICAGO, ILL. 60636

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

June 22, 1969

Director J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-24-81 BY SP4 JPM/ld
6070

Dear Director Hoover,

Our association with nearly 1200 members stands solidly behind you and the FBI in recent criticism of the wire tapping on the phones of the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation in their unending fight to protect our country from subversives had every right to use any means available to keep the "non-violent" Dr. King under a careful watch.

There have been too many politicians and prominent Americans in their "white towers" made of ivory who proclaimed that the late Dr. King was a fine humanitarian.

However, we the citizens of our area who have always used the special faculty of common sense, have always believed Dr. King to be a danger to the society of America and a threat to the future of our great country.

Dr. Martin Luther King was hand picked by the communist party of America and had groomed him to begin the "revolution" that is now beginning in our country. He attended training classes in the company of high-ranking Communist Party officials at the notorious (now defunct) Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn.

The communist party had carefully planned his march in Selma, Ala. along with the operational control of the civil rights movement. The "fantasy" of his "non-violent" status had become a perfect cloak of disguise - so perfect it fooled presidents, congressmen, clergy, statesmen, cabinet members and his own people.

We urge you, now that the wire tapping has become public, to issue a report de-classifying the communist link and Dr. King and make this information public. Our American heritage and our future may depend on it.

YOU
don't belong to
their Association!
IT belongs to **YOU!**

ack:
7/10/69 b7(c)
6/30/69

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

PROC 3

6961 7/22/69

AP

K

REC-24 100-106670-362

REC-28

100-106670-3628

[Redacted]

Buffalo, New York 14223

b7(c)

Dear [Redacted]

It was kind of you to write on June 23rd and comment as you did concerning my administration of this Bureau. The thoughtful remarks of you and your husband mean a great deal to me and I want you to know of my appreciation.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-89 BY SP4 JEN/ML
60766

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no information identifiable to correspondent.

LMG:kas (3)

Kas

MAILED 5
JUN 30 1969
COMM-FBI

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
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66 JUL 24 1969

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57

June 23 1969

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. DeLoach | |
| Mr. Mohr | |
| Mr. Bishop | |
| Mr. Casper | |
| Mr. Callahan | |
| Mr. Conrad | |
| Mr. Felt | |
| Mr. Gale | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

Edgar Hoover

Sir:

MARTIN LUTHER KING

Several years ago on T. V. we heard Robert Kennedy say, when asked whether he had ordered a wiretap on King, that he couldn't remember. He used that same excuse many times when asked about something that would prove to be controversial. A most convenient forgetter.

No one needed a wire tap on King at any time to know that he was timing his wife. Rumor was rife all over this country. The usual Russian gambit is to use a woman to undermine any man they wish to own or eliminate, so King was suspect. He was also a phoney and if he had lived a few more years that would have become apparent to everyone, also.

My husband and I think you are the greatest living American and we hope you never resign. Most of the people we contact feel the same way, even the youngsters and as you know, they usually don't have much respect for anyone in public office these days. We are glad that our present president (and previous ones, too) appreciate your loyalty & ability.

This note does not require an answer, sir. Thank you for reading this.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/ld

Sincerely yours,



Buffalo 23 N. Y. 14223

b7(c)

EXP. PROC.
JUN 25 1969

REC-24

100-106670-3628

JUL 3 1969

ack/mml

6/30/69

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mml

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JLM/ML

44
John Hoover
Sir

607b

Several years ago on T.V we heard
Kennedy say, when asked whether he had
heard a wire tap on King, that he couldn't
remember. He used that same excuse many times
when asked about something that could prove to
be controversial. A most convenient forgetter.
No one needed a wire tap on King at any time
to know that he was two-timing his wife. Rumor
was rife all over this country. The usual Russian
prowbit is to use a woman to undermine any man
they wish to own or eliminate, so King was suspect.
He was also a phoney and if he had lived a few more
years that would have become apparent to everyone, also.

My husband and I think you are the greatest living
American and we hope you never resign. Most of the
people we contact feel the same way, even the youngsters
and as you know, they usually don't have much
respect for anyone in public office these days. We
are glad that our present president (and previous ones, too)
appreciate your loyalty + ability.

This note does not require an answer, sir. Thank
you for reading this. Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature]

b7(c)

June 23 1969

145 Dalton Dr. Buffalo 23 N.Y.

ack
6/30/69
LMO kas

8/11

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. DE LOACH

FROM : J. H. [redacted]

SUBJECT: CASSIUS MARCELLUS CLAY
SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER 15-47-42
SELECTIVE SERVICE ACT

DATE: [redacted]
TIME: [redacted]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

[Handwritten initials]

This is to explain the deletions which copies were made of the logs maintained on the electronic surveillance on the residence of Martin Luther King when a handwritten notation was deleted from the xerox copy.

SAC Frank Hitt, Atlanta, advised that xerox copies of the pertinent logs were made by SA [redacted] SA [redacted] stated that he removed by blocking out the handwritten notation "sum up in memo" and also the lower portion of the date stamp block containing FBI Atlanta and the written name of SA Nichols and Nichols initials. He stated that this was done because in his opinion this did not constitute a change or alteration of the facts set forth in the log and it was not pertinent, significant or of value to the substance of the information. In summary, SA [redacted] felt that the deletions fell in the category of administrative notations of internal Bureau interest only. SA [redacted] stated he did not advise his superiors nor the Bureau of the deletions because he was of the opinion that he was performing his assignment properly.

At the time the copies of the logs in question were submitted to the Bureau by the Atlanta office, the procedure was to have these logs reviewed at the field level. As of today, in accordance with your instructions, these logs are being reviewed at the Seat of Government prior to dissemination. We have had some highly productive electronic surveillances where logs running into several thousand pages have been maintained and if, in the future, such an extensive undertaking is indicated by a request for material of this nature, it will be called to your attention.

OPINION: 1. SA [redacted] was incorrect in believing that the phrase "sum up in memo" which he blocked out fell in the category of administrative material which should be deleted in disseminating copies of Bureau communications to outside agencies. It is the recommendation of the Special Investigative Division and the SAC, Atlanta, concurs, that SA [redacted] should receive a letter of censure for his handling of this situation.

b7(c)

b7(c)

ORIGINAL FILED IN 67-10000-1000

53 JUN 17 1969

CONTINUED OVER JUL 15 1969

100-106670-
NOT RECORDED

FBI Changed Log^{A-3} Of Wiretap on Clay

The government has admitted the FBI changed—without informing the Justice Department—a recorded log of wiretapped conversations involving former heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay.

In disclosing this to Clay's attorneys, the Department yesterday contended it did not learn of the FBI action until June 13, several days after copies of what were purported to be the original logs were filed in the U.S. District Court in Houston.

John S. Martin Jr. and Michael T. Epstein, who are handling the Government's case against Clay, said the original record contained the notation, "Sum up in memo."

But the hand-written phrase was blanked out on documents submitted to the court concerning a Sept. 4, 1964, telephone conversation between Clay and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The discrepancy came to light when Clay's lawyers, unsatisfied with copies, demanded to see the original transcripts. Epstein and Martin then checked with the FBI and found the penned-in portion was left off copies submitted in court.

No reason was given for the omission. The FBI had no comment. And special FBI Agent Robert R. Nichols, who supervised the tap on King's telephone, claimed in an affidavit the notation was of no consequence.

- Pollock _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRS/wh

6071

- The Washington Post _____
- Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) _____
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Daily World _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Examiner (Washington) _____

JUN 24 1969

Date _____

100-106670-

ENCLOSURE

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Blum _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

Eddy

Record by

Clay has admitted... without in-... the Justice... recorded log of... conversations invol-... heavyweight boxing... crosses Clay.

No reason was given for... The FBI had no... and special FBI agent... Robert P. Nichols, who super-... the tap on King's tele-... obtained in an affidavit... the notation was of no conse-... quence.

this to Clay's at-... Department Monday... did not learn of the... June 13, several... copies of what were... to be the original logs... U.S. District Court... least 7.

"When I initially scanned this... Nichols said, 'I made the... handwritten notation 'Sum up in... memo,' as a flag to myself to... consider this as an item to be... placed in memorandum form."

"Upon subsequent detailed re-... view of the entire log and evalu-... ation of its contents," he added,
"I decided the substance of the... information did not warrant the... preparation of a memorandum."

John S. Martin Jr. and Mi-... chael T. Epstein, who are han-... dling the government's case... said the original... contained the notation,
"Summary memo."

As summarized in the record,
the conversation Nichols consid-... ered unimportant was one in... which Clay advised King to
"watch out for them whities."

The discrepancy came to light... when Clay's lawyers, unsatisfied... with copies, demanded to see the... original transcripts. Epstein and... Martin then checked with the... and found the penned-in... was left off copies sub-... mitted in court.

Clay, sentenced to five years'... imprisonment for refusing in-... duction into the armed forces, is... seeking further federal court... hearings in an effort to overturn... his conviction.

When am I going to get the files on this?

J

- The Washington Post _____
- Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) *D-2*
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Daily World _____
- New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Examiner (Washington) _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/MLK
6076

Date _____

*J. H. Hale to Mr. DeLoach
memo 6/24/69 ABE:CSB/djs
J. H. Hale to Mr. DeLoach
memo 6/24/69 ABE:CSB/djs*

COPY MADE FOR MR. TOLSON

Attorneys Dispute Wiretapping

... navy-... Cas-... FBI... the wire-... the late... King Jr... leader... said there... between... last... J. Ed-... top FBI... testimony in a... hearing in U.S... Houston... filed in the U.S... in Houston late... the FBI has pro-... gap of credibility... approaches a cra-

... are seeking... wiretap information... that the govern-... far has avoided mak-... The Clay hear-... which the fighter... of his convic-... five-year sentence for... touched off the... over FBI wire-

... these Houston... brings that the govern-... admitted that it had... telephones of King... retapped the phone... the home of Elijah...

... by this reporter... the FBI to claim... late Robert F. Kenne-... attorney general, both... and authorized the... King's phones. Kenne-... successor as attorney... Nicholas de B. Katzenbach... and his successor, Ramsey Clark, have both dis-... the FBI claim that Ken-... proposed the wiretap on... although they acknowl-... that he approved it.

... The brief filed in Houston... force the government to... documents, wiretap... transcripts and... information.

... some of the contra-... that are at issue:... told The Star that

he had memoranda signed by Kennedy authorizing the wiretaps on King.

Kennedy resigned as attorney general on Sept. 3, 1964, but Hoover told The Star that the King wiretap was discontinued on April 30, 1965.

Since Katzenbach and Clark deny approving any King wiretaps, who approved FBI eavesdropping during the almost eight months after Kennedy left the attorney generalship?

2. The federal court brief claims that either Hoover lied in saying that the King wiretap was discontinued on April 30, 1965, or else FBI Special Agent Robert Nichols perjured himself in his Houston testimony.

"It was Special Agent Nichols who stated that the King wiretap had continued until April 4, 1968, the day of Dr. King's assassination," the brief states.

(The transcript of Nichols' testimony has not been printed, so the brief reflects the memory of Clay's lawyer, Charles Morgan Jr., of Atlanta, and his associates. The New York Times has reported Nichols as testifying that he was in charge of the surveillance of King until May 1965 "and it was my understanding that it went on after that.")

3. The Star quoted Hoover as saying that on Oct. 7, 1963, he reported to Kennedy that it was technically feasible to wiretap telephones at headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta and at an unnamed location in New York.

But testimony in the U.S. District Court in Houston shows the government exhibiting a log purported to be the result of a wiretap of King's home telephone.

This raises the question of how many King taps the FBI had, and which ones were approved by Kennedy or anyone else.

Office _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JRM/ld
 6076

*I have already
 asked about this
 testimony but have
 not yet received an
 answer.*

- The Washington Post Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Evening Star (Washington) _____
- The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
- Daily News (New York) _____
- Sunday News (New York) _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- The Sun (Baltimore) _____
- The Daily World _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Examiner (Washington) _____

Date JUN 23 1969

100-106670-
 ENCL (5)

J.H. [unclear] 4/4/69 J.H. [unclear] filed

Date of Mail 6-9-69

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Subject JUNE MAIL *Martin Luther King*

Removed By 98 JUL 22 1969 150

File Number 100-106670-3627

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

_____ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
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Didn't OK King Tap, Clark Says

By Ronald J. Ostrow and
Nicholas C. Chriss
Los Angeles Times

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark said yesterday that while he headed the Justice Department, the FBI had no authorization to wiretap or bug the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In an interview, Clark said: "The implication that people thought Dr. King was a security threat are outrageous."

Clark also denied that he ever had authorized the FBI to bug or wiretap Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Black Muslims.

Clark's statement raises the question of whether the FBI acted without authority in conducting electronic surveillance of the two Negro leaders while Clark was in office. It also suggests that the FBI may have violated the 1965 Executive Order by President Johnson providing that no wire tapping "shall be undertaken or continued without first obtaining the approval of the Attorney General."

The first official acknowledgement that Dr. King and Muhammad had been monitored came last week in Houston during a Federal court hearing on the appeal by former heavyweight champion Cassius Clay of his 1967 draft refusal conviction.

Clay contends that FBI eavesdropping on his conversations with Dr. King and Muhammad tainted his conviction.

Confirmation that Dr. King's home was tapped from 1964 until around the time of his assassination, April 4, 1968, came from FBI agent Robert Nichols. Asked if the tap continued until the assassination date, Nichols nodded.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-14-81 BY 307

- Belmont
- Mohr
- DeLoach
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

he

6076

Who did authorize the
King & Muhammad
tapes?

R

- The Washington Post Times Herald A-7
- The Washington Daily News
- The Evening Star (Washington)
- The Sunday Star (Washington)
- Daily News (New York)
- Sunday News (New York)
- New York Post
- The New York Times
- The Sun (Baltimore)
- The Daily World
- The New Leader
- The Wall Street Journal
- The National Observer
- People's World
- Examiner (Washington)

REC 35

100-106670-3626
3 JUL 8 1969 JUN 8 1969

MEMO IS IN PREPARATION

SEE MEMO REFER TO SULLIVAN 6/10/69

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

79 JUL 11 1969

JUL 7 1969

file-5-34

Date of Mail 6-10-69

Has been removed and placed in the Special File Room of Records Branch.

See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Subject JUNE MAIL Martin Luther King

Removed By 98 JUL 22 1969

File Number 100-106670-3625

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Date 6/21/69

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See File 66-2554-7530 for authority.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Subject JUNE MAIL - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Removed By 98 JUL 17 1969

File Number 100-106670-3624

FBI

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- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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3623

EX-103

[REDACTED]

Archie, Texas 78704

b7(c)

[REDACTED]

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DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JMN/ML

6076

I have received your communication of June 24th, with enclosure, and certainly appreciate your kind remarks and sentiments regarding my administration of the FBI. I hope that our future efforts will continue to merit your approval. In view of your concern, I am enclosing an article which sets forth the FBI's position concerning the Martin Luther King, Jr., wiretap controversy.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 22
JUL 1 - 1969
COMM-FBI

LeP...

RECEIVED
DECEMBER 11 1969

Enclosure

"The Evening Star" article regarding King wiretap, 6-19-69

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent.

REC'D - READING ROOM

JUL 1 1 29 PM '69

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TELETYPE UNIT

SEARCHED 4724

Mr. Tolson
 Mr. DeLoach
 Mr. Mohr
 Mr. Bishop
 Mr. Callahan
 Mr. Conrad
 Mr. Felt
 Mr. Gale
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Sullivan
 Mr. Tavel
 Mr. Trotter
 Tele. Room
 Miss Holmes
 Miss Gandy

b7(c) [redacted]
 Austin, Texas 78704
 June 24, 1969

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your selfless service toward law and order in this nation, and the preservation of the Constitution. I am sure that there have been many heart-breaking moments for you in your years of service due to Supreme Court decisions, politically motivated acts, and unfair criticism by uninformed individuals. This country is fortunate in that we have had someone with your ability and integrity. We humbly ask that you remain as long as you feel physically able, for America is sorely in need of worthy leaders.

The enclosed article has eaten upon my heart like a cancer. Isn't there some way that the truth about King and some of the Conspiracy can be published? It is time that the myth that surrounds him is ended and the public is informed as to what he was up to. There are a lot of Black Militants in this area, and gun registration won't stop their intentions. Concerned citizens are keeping their eyes OPEN.

A Grateful Citizen

b7(c) [redacted]

7/187

MARTIN LUTHER KING

1-ENCLOSURE

EX-103

REC-26 100-106670-3623

JUL 2
 JUN 27 1969

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 DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4/20/ML
 6076

CORRESPONDENCE
 PERS. REC. UNIT

31
 PROC.
 32 JUN 27 1969

TO GO!

B

...society is than when... ability to threat to... lot of peril... the public... of it — to... missions of a... legal FBI wiretaps... of homes and... Department official... in Federal... that Dr. Martin... was under... surveillance in 1964... the FBI agent who... this surveillance told... it was my... that it went on... whole truth is that Dr. King's phones were tapped, his... rooms bugged, and he was... shadowed right up to... time he was slain in... Memphis on April 4, 1968.

...FBI agent, C. Barry... told the court in... Houston, Texas, that for four... solid years he had listened eight... hours a day, five days a week, to the conversations of Elijah Muhammad, leader of the Black Muslims. Pickett employed both a telephone wiretap and a microphone planted in Mr. Muhammad's home. These cases of electronic eavesdropping, which violate both federal law and a Presidential executive order, were disclosed in a hearing on former heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay's effort to overturn a five year prison sentence for his refusal to be drafted. These buggings, which caught some Clay conversations in their "net," are but a fraction of the illegal wiretaps that have moved this country far closer to a police state than most Americans realize.

...indiv... reaction... part of most Americans? First, there is the general FBI justification for such tactics: "national security."... Gen. Ramon... emphatically... had no authority to wiretap or bug Dr. King, asserts that "the implication that people thought Dr. King was a security threat is outrageous." Still, that term "national security" is more powerful than "motherhood," for it evokes fear, and men still surrender more things — including liberty — out of fear than they do out of love.

The puzzling... Clark's statement... as though he is... hear of the wiretapping... bugging of Dr... Clark possibly... unaware... before... justifying larger... by titillating some... men and feeding... ammunition to Southern... who despised the civil... leader — all by way... revealing "tidbits" picked... through the wiretaps... buggings? Was Clark unaware that certain FBI officials were roaming the country leaking to newspaper editors poisonous

stories about Dr. King and what... buggings allegedly had revealed? Everybody else in Washington of any consequence knew it, and many deplore it, but no one seemed to know how to go about making the FBI bend to the laws of the land. There is a not-too-flippant assumption in Washington that J. Edgar Hoover has been FBI director for 45 years because all the recent Presidents have assumed that he knew too much about them to be replaced. So not only was he not replaced by any of the younger, very able FBI men in the normal course of things, but Presidents Johnson and Nixon have felt it wise or expedient to waive a law saying Hoover has reached

the rocking chair age. Hoover ought to be replaced as FBI director — immediately. As Washington agency heads go, Hoover may have done a better job than most. But the people of this country knew something when they limited the time one man might serve in the Presidency. They saw personal fiefdoms as inimical to the democracy, the personal freedom, that we have come to cherish. If it is dangerous to have one man serve three full terms as President, it is far more dangerous to have one man take lifetime possession of a powerful police-investigative agency that prods into the deepest secrets of the most prominent, most honored citizens and has the

power to discredit, even destroy, almost anyone. The kind of abuse of and contempt for the law manifest in the King and Muhammad eavesdropping becomes almost inevitable when a man is left in a key job as long as Hoover has been. Were Hoover a more thoughtful man, or as concerned about the preservation of democracy and liberty as his speeches suggest, he would have resigned long ago. He would not keep putting Presidents in the political bind of deciding to keep him or ease him out. It is clear Hoover has no intention of resigning. So when does the President muster the courage to say: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Goodbye.?"

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12-11-81

SP4 JRM/m
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100-106670-3623
ENCLOSURE

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|--------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. DeLoach | |
| Mr. Mohr | |
| Mr. Bishop | |
| Mr. Casper | |
| Mr. Callahan | |
| Mr. Conrad | |
| Mr. Felt | |
| Mr. Gale | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

AIRTEL

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-100000)

SAC, NEW YORK (100-136585)

MARTIN LUTHER KING
RM RACIAL MATTER

ReNYtels to Bureau 6/21/69 and 6/22/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an article appearing in the "New York Post", June 20, 1969, page 53, captioned, "About Hoover, King and RFK," by JAMES A. WECHSLER.

New York Office will report further information from [redacted] when obtained.

NO LHM to follow.

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b(7)(D)

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- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - New York

JB:amf
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ENCLOSURE

100-100000-3622

REC-49 JUN 23 1969

RACIAL INT. SECT.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 2-14-91 BY SP4 Rm/ln

6076

(MAGAZINE PAGE FIVE) 53

Out Hoover, King and RFK

JAMES A. WECHSLER

11/1

In the face of his own knowledge and belief, Robert F. Kennedy did authorize the FBI's wiretapping on Martin Luther King. It was not a decision that he viewed in retrospect with any pride. That is one reason why the current FBI effort to document Kennedy's involvement in the case has a quality of posthumous obscurity.

For the issue obscured by these self-serving and belated FBI exercises in revelation is whether this outrageous intrusion was Kennedy's idea or whether it was a response to the kind of data that J. Edgar Hoover has inflicted on innumerable Attorneys General in pressing for the sanction he obtained from Kennedy.

This is no simplistic apologia for RFK. I should like to believe that he would have responded differently if the issue had been presented to him later in his life. But this cannot be proved. What I do know — on the basis of personal conversation — is that he had a deepening concern about the FBI director's role during his final years on earth and that he would almost certainly have arranged for Hoover's retirement if he had achieved the Presidency.

* *

What is intolerably sickening about the present succession of official and unofficial releases from Mr. Hoover's office is that they seem designed to stain the lives of both Dr. King and Bob Kennedy.

It is understandable that Mr. Hoover should feel a certain indignation about published reports that he acted on his own, and therefore lawlessly, in ordering the surveillance on Dr. King.

3685

ENCLOSURE

So let us grant him the point that he and Robert Kennedy--as he had so many other people in the same office--into ratifying a dreary snooping exercise.

— It is the unhappy history of the Justice Dept. that Hoover has for so long exerted this kind of continuous political blackmail. In this instance he communicated to Kennedy the view that King was in contact with certain suspect characters; if Kennedy ignored the warning and King proved to be a bomb thrower (rather than a victim), the FBI's skilled public relations apparatus would have quickly whispered the word to the Washington press corps that the Attorney General had capriciously rejected Hoover's plea for continuing security of this dangerous man.

In fact what Hoover "got" on King was that he had a playful quality in his life, and that the civil rights movement did not always obey the codes of private puritanism. Certainly it was also true that he met with many varieties of political men, some of them with FBI dossiers, but his essential integrity and political independence were never seriously challenged. Only the crude format of "raw" FBI material could have rendered him guilty by association.

* * *

Painful as some of the irrelevant details may be, it is time that the full story be unfolded. This, I believe, is what both Dr. King and Robert Kennedy would have wanted in the light of the FBI's current release of selective information and of the apparent expansion of wiretapping under the regime of Attorney General Mitchell.

The question is not whether Martin Luther King was a personal saint, or whether Kennedy should have asked many more questions before letting Hoover run wild. It is whether the FBI should be allowed and encouraged to collect random information about public men that can eventually become weapons of blackmail.

When J. Edgar Hoover branded Dr. King "the most notorious liar in the country" after King had assailed the FBI's laggard activity in civil rights cases—King could not fight back effectively because he knew that some aspects of his personal life had been monitored by Hoover's men. This was political terrorism of the vilest sort. Now since Mr. Hoover has chosen to perpetuate the battle—against both King and Kennedy—because of his sensitivity to journalistic criticism, it is time the whole story was aired before a Congressional tribunal. The two dead men cannot be injured by such an inquest; many living men may be spared injustice and indignity at the hands of an organization that too long ago became a state within a state.

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

6/19/69

- MR. TOLSON _____
- MR. DELOACH _____
- MR. MOHR _____
- MR. WICK _____
- MR. CASPER _____
- MR. CALLAHAN _____
- MR. CONRAD _____
- MR. FELT _____
- MR. GALE _____
- MR. ROSEN _____
- MR. SULLIVAN _____
- MR. TAVEL _____
- MR. TROTTER _____
- MR. JONES _____
- TELE. ROOM _____
- MISS HOLMES _____
- MRS. METCALF _____
- MISS GANDY _____

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I have heard your statement that Robert Kennedy authorized you to tap the telephone of Rev. M. L. King

I thus ask: If this is true, then why didn't you tell this when Robert Kennedy was alive?

Hoping you can answer, I am

Sincerely

Taxpayer

COPY:hcv

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-91 BY SP/AM/lu

ignore.
\$

[Redacted]

b7c [Redacted]

S. C. [Redacted]

S. [Redacted]

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. DeLoach | |
| Mr. Mohr | |
| Mr. Casper | |
| Mr. Callahan | |
| Mr. Conrad | |
| Mr. Felt | |
| Mr. Gale | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4/MLM/ML
6076

Dear Mr. Hoover

I have heard your statement that Robert Kennedy authorized you to tap the telephones of Rev. M. L. King

I thus ask: If this is true, I don't why didn't you tell this to when Robert Kennedy was alive?

Hoping you can answer them

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

b7(c)

Tax payer

EXP. PROC.
31 JUN 23 1969

[Redacted text]

b7(c)

[Redacted text]

100-106670-3621

Re-look away 1/6/92

JUN 23 1969

Memorandum

Loa

6/69

Handwritten notes and initials in the top right corner, including "wcr/s" and "S. L. Jones".

FROM

T. E. Bishop

SUBJECT

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

In memorandum from G. C. Moore to Mr. W. C. Sullivan dated 6/21/69, it was recommended and approved by the Director that Bishop personally contact Congressman H. R. Gross (R. - Iowa), with whom we have had cordial relations, with reference to his letter of June 19, 1969, and advise him that due to various ramifications involved in the King telephone surveillance, it is not possible to furnish him any additional data.

With the Director's approval, Bishop contacted Congressman Gross on the afternoon of 6/23/69. Congressman Gross was very cordial and, when Bishop advised him that it would not be possible to furnish him any additional data concerning the wiretap on Dr. Martin Luther King other than what has appeared in the press, he stated that he completely understood. Congressman Gross stated that his letter to the Director of June 19, 1969, was motivated solely by the desire to furnish the Director a Congressional forum if the Director wished to utilize the services of Congressman Gross in making public additional facts concerning the approval of the wiretap on Dr. Martin Luther King and facts concerning the communist associations and influence over Dr. King.

Congressman Gross requested that Mr. Hoover send him a brief acknowledgment of his letter of June 19, 1969, advising that it is not possible to furnish him any additional data, so that Congressman Gross may retain it in his files for record purposes in the event any inquiries should be made of him on this matter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Congressman Gross.

Enclosure *sent 6-29-69*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Gale - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones - Enclosure

TEB:jo

59 JUL 14 1969

JUN 27 1969

6076
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 JAM/kl

EX-101
GA
REC-11
Handwritten initials and file number 100-106670-3620

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date June 22, 1969

Attached relates to article by James A. Wechsler which appeared in the "New York Post," a New York City daily newspaper, edition of 6/20/69. The article pertains to our special coverage on Martin Luther King, Jr.

Wechsler has been a long-time critic of the Bureau and, as can be expected, this article is also critical.

Due to nature of information contained in teletype, no dissemination being made.

h
DATE 2-14-81 SP4 JAMIA/6076

TPD:gmt *wls*
GCJ

TELETYPE
JUN 22 1969

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Mr. Tolson | _____ |
| Mr. DeLoach | _____ |
| Mr. Mohr | _____ |
| Mr. Bishop | _____ |
| Mr. Casper | _____ |
| Mr. Callahan | _____ |
| Mr. Conrad | _____ |
| Mr. Felt | _____ |
| Mr. Gale | _____ |
| Mr. Rosen | _____ |
| Mr. Sullivan | _____ |
| Mr. Tavel | _____ |
| Mr. Trotter | _____ |
| Tele. Room | _____ |
| Miss Holmes | _____ |
| Miss Gandy | _____ |

WA 1
 11 35 AM JUN 22 1969
 TO DIRECTOR (100-136679) PLAINFIELD
 ATTN. DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE
 FROM NEW YORK (100-136595) 2P

MARTIN LUTHER KING; RACIAL MATTERS

THE FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF AN ARTICLE IN THE
 "NEW YORK POST" FRIDAY JUNE TWENTY, NINETEEN SIXTY
 NINE, PAGE FIFTY THREE, CAPTIONED "ABOUT HOOVER, KING
 AND RFK" BY JAMES A. WECHSLER.

KENNEDY DID AUTHORIZE A TAP ON KING. IT WAS A
 DECISION HE LATER VIEWED WITHOUT PRIDE. CURRENT FBI
 EFFORTS HAVE A QUALITY OF "POSTHUMOUS ORSENITY".

"WHAT I DO KNOW, ON THE BASIS OF PERSONAL CONVERSATION,
 IS THAT HE (KENNEDY) HAD A DEEPENING CONCERN ABOUT THE
 FBI DIRECTOR'S ROLE DURING HIS FINAL YEARS ON EARTH,

AND THAT HE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE ARRANGED FOR
 HOOVER'S RETIREMENT IF HE HAD ACHIEVED THE PRESIDENCY.
 END PAGE ONE

cc Helms
DB [initials]
S- [initials]
J

REC 13 100-106670-3619

JUN 30 1969

EX-103

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 2-14-91 BY SP4JAM/L

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

6076

PAGE TWO

FBI EFFORTS SEEM DESIGNED TO JEOPARDISE THE LIVES OF BOTH KING AND KENNEDY.

LET US GRANT THAT HOOVER BEGUILLED KENNEDY AS HE DID OTHER ATTORNEYS GENERAL INTO PERFORMING A DREARY SNOOPING EXERCISE. THIS IS REFERRED TO BY WECHSLER AS "POLITICAL BLACKMAIL."

IF KENNEDY IGNORED HOOVER'S WARNING ABOUT KING, AND KING TURNED OUT TO BE A BOMB SHELL, THE FBI SKILLED PUBLIC RELATIONS APPARATUS WOULD WHISPER KENNEDY'S REJECTION OF HOOVER'S PLEA.

WECHSLER CLAIMS KING COULD NOT ANSWER HOOVER'S STATEMENTS BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT SOME ASPECTS OF HIS PERSONAL LIFE HAD BEEN MONITORED BY THE FBI. HOOVER'S CURRENT "RELEASE OF SELECTIVE INFORMATION" IS DUE TO HIS SENSITIVITY OF GENERALISTIC CRITICISM.

WECHSLER CALLS FOR THE ENTIRE STORY TO BE AIRED SO THAT "MANY LIVING MEN MAY BE SPARED INJUSTICE AND INDIGNITY AT THE HANDS OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT TOO LONG AGO BECAME A STATE WITHIN A STATE."

XEROX COPIES OF THE ABOVE ARTICLE ARE BEING PROMPTLY FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU.

END

FBI WASH DC HWL

CC MR. SULLIVAN

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DATE: 6/26/69

FROM: [redacted] shop

SUBJECT: WILLIAM C. BARTON, ASSOCIATED PRESS
STEVEN MC KENZIE, WASHINGTON POST
REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR

Lead
11/10

Both Barton of the AP and McKenzie from the Post contacted my office yesterday to request personal interviews with the Director. Mr. Barton advised that in view of the interview given by Mr. Hoover which appeared in the Detroit Free Press, his desk had requested him to make a formal request of the Director. The Director's extremely heavy schedule was explained to Mr. Barton and he said he fully understood the problem.

It will be recalled that following the story in the Star last week concerning the wiretaps on Martin Luther King that McKenzie, from the Post, requested an interview and was told quite firmly that the Director would not grant an interview to him. In his call last evening, McKenzie was most persistent and again referred to the Star interview and said that in view of the Detroit Free Press story, they felt all the more they should have the opportunity for an exclusive interview with the Director. He asked that he be called today with the Director's decision and he will be informed, of course, that the Director will not grant an interview.

For information.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones
- 1 - Miss Gandy
- 1 - Miss Holmes

HPL:hak (6)

hbk

7/1

Pugh
W.

NOT RECORDED
JUN 27 1969
JUN 30 1969

CORRESPONDENCE

65 JUL 14 1969

CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/14/81 BY SP4 JRM/ld
6076

ORIGINAL FILED IN

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 JMM/ML
ON 2-14-81
6076

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 6/20/69

Attached relates to a conversation between Coretta King and Stanley Levison during which Mrs. King advised she had been contacted by Ethel Kennedy (Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy) on 6/20/69 and that Ethel Kennedy said she was sorry about what has been in the paper. (Apparently referring to the article concerning the authorization from Robert F. Kennedy to tap Martin Luther King's telephones). Levison felt the entire affair will be forgotten, but that FBI Director Hoover will be bothered by it because it leaves him as the man responsible. Mrs. King agreed stating, "I feels like he is the most guilty." Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party as late as 1964.

In view of the nature of this information and the secret source from which it was obtained, no dissemination is being made.

Classified by 6080 Rad/MP
Exempt from GDS Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite 12/29/77

ABK:chs

200/1212

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

SECRET

VIA TELETYPE
JUN 20 1969
END

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. DeLoach | |
| Mr. Mohr | |
| Mr. Bishop | |
| Mr. Casper | |
| Mr. Callahan | |
| Mr. Conrad | |
| Mr. Felt | |
| Mr. Gale | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

PM URGENT 6-20-69 AWS
DIRECTOR 100-106670 (CODE)
ATTENTION DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
FROM NEW YORK 100-136585

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF DATE

SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SM-C, CP: AT.

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: ATLANTA

b(2) b(7)(D)

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (CLASSIFY "SECRET") ON JUNE TWO ZERO, SIXTYNINE:
Classified by 6090 Red/RAE
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite 10/30/170N

ON JUNE TWO ZERO, SIXTYNINE, CORETTA KING TOLD

STANLEY LEVISON THAT ETHEL KENNEDY HAD CONTACTED HER THAT DATE TO SAY SHE WAS SOPYRY ABCUT WHAT HAS BEEN IN THE PAPER (APPRENTLY REFERRING TO THE ARTICLE CONCERNING THE AUTHORIZATION FROM ROBERT F. KENNEDY, WHEN ATTORNEY GENERAL, TO MARTIN LUTHER KING'S TELEPHONES). CORETTA ADDED THAT ETHEL KENNEDY IMPLIED THAT SHE HOPED THIS WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THEIR FRIENDSHIP. CORETTA SAID SHE REPLIED THAT SHE UNDERSTOOD HOW THE PRESS CAN BE DEVISIVE AT TIMES AND THAT THIS DOES NOT COLOR HER ATTITUDE IN ANYWAY TOWARD THE (KENNEDY) FAMILY.

CORETTA ALSO TOLD LEVISON THAT ETHEL KENNEDY SAID "THEY" HAD A MEETING AT HER HOME THE PREVIOUS NIGHT AND TALKED

END PAGE
70 JUL 10 1969

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-160/RAE
10/30/80
JUN 30 1969
UNRECORDED FILED IN

PAGE TWO

CORETTA SAID SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT ETHEL KENNEDY WAS SAYING ABOUT KING ABOUT WHAT SHE WANTS TO ASK HER.

LEVISON COMMENTED THAT HE FELT CORETTA'S ANSWER WAS CORRECTLY RIGHT BECAUSE THERE IS NO POINT IN ATTEMPTING TO ASSESS WHAT ROLE BOBBY KENNEDY PLAYED SINCE THERE IS NO WAY OF REALLY KNOWING.

CORETTA STATED THAT THIS WAS "SORT OF PASSING THE BUCK, AND THEY'RE TRYING TO PUT IT ALL OFF ON HIM". SHE ADDED THAT HE MAY HAVE AGREED AND GONE ALONG WITH IT.

LEVISON REMARKED THAT THEY KNOW KING, WHETHER HE FELT BOBBY KENNEDY WAS INVOLVED OR NOT, STILL MAINTAINED A FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. HE SAID IF KING FELT BOBBY KENNEDY HAD DONE ANYTHING, HE FORGAVE HIM NO DOUBT BASED ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TIME, THE FACT HE WAS ALWAYS SUPER NERVOUS ABOUT HIS BROTHER (PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY). LEVISON SAID THIS IS THE ATTITUDE CORETTA SHOULD TAKE. HE SAID IF THE PRESS "WANTS TO DIG UP GARBAGE" IT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP.

CORETTA SAID THAT FOLLOWING HER CONVERSATION WITH ETHEL KENNEDY, THE PHONE RANG AGAIN AND THAT THE GIRL WHO

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

ANSWERED SENATOR KENNEDY. CORETTA SAID, HOWEVER,
SHE AND LEVISON AGREED THAT SENATOR
KENNEDY HAD FOUND OUT THAT ETHEL CONTACTED CORETTA
AND SHOULD GO THROUGH WITH THE CALL.

LEVISON STATED THAT THE PRESSURE AT THIS POINT
FROM MANY LIBERALS WHO RESENT FBI DIRECTOR HOOVER'S
POLICY HAD MADE HOOVER GIVE AN ANSWER. HE ADDED THAT HOOVER
HAD ANSWERED BACK BY (RAMSEY) CLARK, AND THAT CLARK'S
ANSWER WAS RIGHT.

LEVISON GAVE HIS OPINION THAT THE ENTIRE AFFAIR
WILL "BLow AWAY" AND ADDED THAT "IT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING
YOU CAN KEEP GOING." LEVISON FELT THE ENTIRE THING WILL BE
FORGOTTEN BUT THAT FBI DIRECTOR HOOVER WILL BE BOTHERED BY IT
BECAUSE IT LEAVES HIM AS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE.

CORETTA AGREED, STATING "I FEELS LIKE HE IS THE
MOST GUILTY."

LEVISON COMMENTED THAT CORETTA'S SUGGESTION THAT SHE
GET TOGETHER WITH ETHEL KENNEDY COULD BE FRUITFUL AND SHOULD

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

BE DONE REASONABLY SOON. LEVISON SUGGESTED THAT CORETTA
SET UP THE MEETING AND THAT THEY COULD TALK ABOUT IT BEFORE
SHE AND ETHEL KENNEDY MEET. ~~A~~

memo
NO ~~LHM~~ BEING SUBMITTED.

END

WA...LRC

FBI WASH DC

CC. MR. SULLIVAN

~~SECRET~~

4

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
June 27 1969

The attached ~~letter~~ regarding
Martin Luther King and newspaper
articles were sent to the Director
from an anonymous source.

Envelope is postmarked
San Francisco, California,
June 25, 1969.

- MR. TOLSON _____
- MR. DELOACH _____
- MR. MOHR _____
- MR. BISHOP _____
- MR. CASPER _____
- MR. CALLAHAN _____
- MR. CONRAD _____
- MR. FELT _____
- MR. GALE _____
- MR. ROSEN _____
- MR. SULLIVAN _____
- MR. TAVEL _____
- MR. TROTTER _____
- MR. JONES _____
- TELE. ROOM _____
- MISS HOLMES _____
- MRS. METCALF _____
- MISS GANDY _____

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-14-81 BY SP4 [signature]
6076

hcv

C. Moore
File
5-787

100-106670-

NOT RECORDED

5 JUL 8 1969

ENCLOSURE

55 JUL 8 1969

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AT COMMUNIST TRAINING SCHOOL



The above picture was made by an employee of the State of Georgia, at the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee during the Labor Day week-end of 1957. The photographer was sent to the Highlander Folk School by the Georgia Commission on Education. The Highlander Folk School was abolished by an act of the Legislature of the State of Tennessee at a later date.

Those numbered in the picture are:

1. Martin Luther King, Jr., of the Montgomery boycott and the Birmingham riots. Karl Prussion, a counterspy for the FBI for twelve years, charges that Martin Luther King belongs to sixty Communist-front organizations — more than any Communist in the United States.
2. Abner W. Berry of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.
3. Aubrey Williams, President of the Southern Conference Education Fund, Inc., The Transmission Belt in the South for the Communist Party.
4. Myles Horton, Director of Highlander Folk School for Communist Training, Monteagle, Tennessee.

These "Four Horsemen" of racial agitation have brought economic disturbances, strife and violence in their advancement of the Communist doctrine of "racial nationalism."

JOIN THE AUGUSTA COURIER IN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

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Alert Americans Association, Box 1222, I. A. C. 90052

Order RIGHT WING DIRECTORY, listing all Right Wing Activities

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6076

King Wiretap

But Rowan Is Still
Attorney General

BY RONALD J. OGDEN

WASHINGTON — The

commentary on the wiretap on Dr. King's phone from the Justice Department was a "malicious" and "scurrilous" attack on the late attorney general of the United States, Mr. Robert F. Kennedy, Tolson said in his letter to Rowan.

"This device was strictly in the field of internal security," Tolson said. "It was a violation of the Constitution and a gross abuse of power. It was a deliberate attempt to spy on Dr. King for the purpose of gathering information for the use of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in its operations against the Communist Party of the United States."

But nothing was said in the letter about the fact that the FBI had been monitoring Dr. King since 1963. The Times learned Wednesday from a former government source that FBI records showed the tap on Dr. King's phone was obtained from November 1963, until April 30, 1965, when then Atty. Gen. Nicholas D. Katzenbach ordered it removed.

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Report on

Tap Called Unfair

Ex-Attorneys General Criticize FBI Chief on Saying Robert Kennedy Initiated Ord

BY RONALD J. OGDEN

WASHINGTON — Two former attorneys general accused J. Edgar Hoover Thursday night of making "false" and "deceptive" statements after the FBI director was quoted as saying Robert F. Kennedy initiated a wiretap on Dr. Martin Luther King.

Nicholas D. Katzenbach and Ramsey Clark spoke out after Hoover, in a copyrighted interview with the Washington Evening Star, said Kennedy, when attorney general, not only authorized but proposed the tap because of reports Dr. King was associating with a lawyer with Communist connections.

The King wiretap was authorized after the FBI made a case that national security was involved. Attorneys general have had presidential approval for wiretaps in cases of national security since the Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Katzenbach, asked about Hoover's statement, said: "... To say or imply that this tap was the original conception of Robert Kennedy—that he was the moving force in this situation—or that he had any doubts whatsoever as to Dr. King's integrity or loyalty is unfair to Sen. King and Dr. King and standards that are consonant with the dignity and sense of justice which have always before been the cornerstone of Mr. Hoover's administration of the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Clark, also asked for his reaction, said it was "deceptive" for Hoover to portray the FBI as "a reluctant eavesdropper on Dr. King." He added: "Mr. Hoover repeatedly requested me to authorize FBI wiretaps on Dr. King while I was attorney general. The last of these requests, none of which was granted, came two days before the murder of Dr. King."

Clark said Dr. King's name never appeared on the list, and he called "outrageous" the implication that people viewed Dr. King as a security threat. According to FBI records, the tap was cut off April 30, 1965. But a question has arisen as to whether it may have continued far beyond that date.

Clark, also asked for his reaction, said it was "deceptive" for Hoover to portray the FBI as "a reluctant eavesdropper on Dr. King." He added: "Mr. Hoover repeatedly requested me to authorize FBI wiretaps on Dr. King while I was attorney general. The last of these requests, none of which was granted, came two days before the murder of Dr. King."

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12-28-81 BY SP5/AMK/69

The Department law-... of... acknow-... for the first time

... that the FBI had been monitoring Dr. King. The disclosure was made at a hearing in Houston on an appeal by ex-heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali from his conviction for refusing to be drafted.

Ali's conversation with Dr. King was picked up by the tap on Dr. King's Atlanta home phone.

It was also learned from government sources Wednesday that the FBI first obtained authorization to tap Dr. King's phone from Atty. Gen. Kennedy in October, 1963.

The bureau, these sources said, requested and received authority to install the tap to check on Dr. King's alleged contact with a Communist Party member. At the time, the FBI was investigating

whether the civil rights movement had been infiltrated by Communists.

It could not be learned whether Kennedy ever called a halt to the electronic surveillance of Dr. King.

Reliable sources said Katzenbach, who succeeded Kennedy as attorney general, did not learn of the tap immediately upon taking over the Justice Department in September, 1964. But it is known that he ordered it removed April 30, 1965.

Ramsey Clark, who took over from Katzenbach Oct. 1, 1966, was the first attorney general to insti-

tute a procedure for periodically reviewing all FBI wiretapping. Clark has told The Times that beginning in December, 1966, he required the bureau every three months to give him a list of every person under electronic surveillance.

Clark said Dr. King's name never appeared on the list, and he called "outrageous" the implication that people viewed Dr. King as a security threat.

According to FBI records, the tap was cut off April 30, 1965. But a question has arisen as to whether it may have continued far beyond that date.

of possible political discussions.

Commenting on this revelation, Katzenbach said "Truth is seldom found in selective and partial disclosures of this type."

Katzenbach declined to amplify on this part of statement which suggested that Hoover picked up the tap among documents he chose among documents to support his claim that Kennedy was the major force behind the King surveillance.

Katzenbach, in a phone interview from his New York home, said he was "unworthy of the tradition of the FBI" in attack in this fashion on the reputation of two (Kennedy and Dr. King) who cannot defend themselves.

Called Unfair
"What has been said is unfair to Sen. King and Dr. King and standards that are consonant with the dignity and sense of justice which have always before been the cornerstone of Mr. Hoover's administration of the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Katzenbach said he served as deputy attorney general under Kennedy and succeeded him in the position when Kennedy resigned to run for the Senate.

Burke Marshall, who headed the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division under Kennedy, reported the charge that Hoover was citing those documents that supported his assertions.

"It's outrageous for Hoover to give charge of selection of documents to a group of people in order to deal adversely with the public," Marshall said. "The impression was given when he did that"

~~SECRET~~

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE
Date 6/26/69

Attached was received from a highly confidential source and concerns a telephone conversation between Andrew Young, Executive Vice President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Stanley Levison. Young said that he thinks Kunstler (believed to be William Kunstler, New York attorney for the Black Panther Party (BPP), is about to file a suit enjoining the FBI from wire tapping BPP and several other organizations. Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party as late as 1964.

The Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General and Internal Security Division are being advised.

ABK:TDR/chs/lis

Not done, info appeared in newspaper 6/20/69

hc

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-4 JRM/ur
ON 2-14-81 ✓
6026

WCH

6080 Lel/TAP

12/20/77

~~SECRET~~

VIA TELETYPE
JUN 25 1969
ENCIPHERED

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson | |
| Mr. DeLoach | |
| Mr. Mohr | |
| Mr. Bishop | |
| Mr. Casper | |
| Mr. Callahan | |
| Mr. Conrad | |
| Mr. Felt | |
| Mr. Gale | |
| Mr. Rosen | |
| Mr. Sullivan | |
| Mr. Tavel | |
| Mr. Trotter | |
| Tele. Room | |
| Miss Holmes | |
| Miss Gandy | |

GAAGAGYAA---

NEW YORK

URGENT 6-25-69 AWS

DIRECTOR 100-106670 (CODE)

ATTENTION DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

NEW YORK 100-136585

DECLASSIFIED BY SAJML
ON 2-14-81

6076

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP(S)
DATE 7/11/81

SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; SM-C 400- ATJ.

OFFICE OF ORIGIN - ATLANTA

FOLLOWING INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED]

b(2) b(7)(D)

ON SIX TWENTY FIVE SIXTYNINE

DECLASSIFY "SECRET").

ON SIX TWENTYFIVE SIXTYNINE, ANDREW YOUNG, EXECUTIVE
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
VICE-PRESIDENT, SCLC, ASKED STANLEY LEVISON, IF HE WAS "KEEPING
UP ON THE TIMES (NEW YORK TIMES) THING ON WIRE TAPPING"
(ALLUDING TO THE TAPPING OF TELEPHONES OF MARTIN LUTHER
KING.) LEVISON REPLIED THAT HE WAS AND YOUNG SAID THAT HE
THINKS THAT KUNSTLER IS ABOUT TO FILE A SUIT ENJOINING THE
FBI AGAINST WIRE TAPPING THE BLACK PANTHERS, WOMEN'S STRIKE
FOR PEACE, THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE,

END PAGE ONE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF [REDACTED]
DATE 2-16-81

100-106670-367

REC-128

JUN 27 1969

Classified by 6080 KAL/100
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite 12/24/77

TELETYPE TO [REDACTED]
JUL 2 1969
ETB

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

SECRET

Hand To HQ, cc [REDACTED] 1976 INTSEC [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

THE ... OF RACIAL ... THE STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC
SOCIAL ... EVERYTHING TO THE LEFT OF US." *S*

... SAID THE PROBLEM IS THAT KUNSTLER "IS TRYING
TO GET US IN THE SOUP BUT THAT'S JUST NOT OUR COMPANY." *S*

... AGREED. *S*

... IS BELIEVED TO BE NY ATTORNEY WILLIAM
KUNSTLER, WHO IS CURRENTLY ACTING FOR BPP MEMBERS
INVOLVED IN LEGAL ACTIONS IN NYC. *u*

^{MEMO}
NO LHM BEING SUBMITTED. *u*

AM COPY BEING SENT TO AT.

END

~~WA... CORR LI ONE TEXT W 6 SHD BE YOUNG~~

WA... LRG FBI WASH DC

IVAN

~~SECRET~~